

PIERRE BONNEFILLE

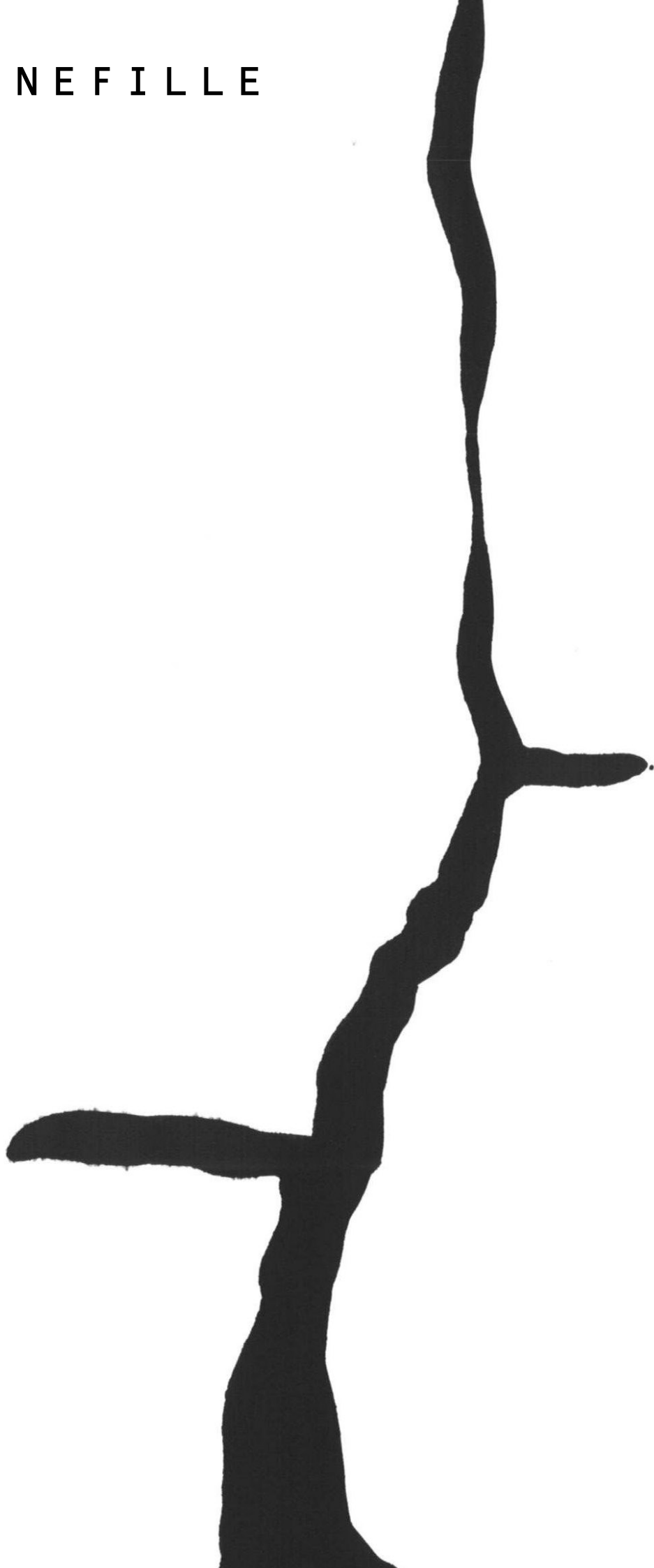
/ RHIZOME(S)

September 7th - October 22nd 2023
5 rue Bréguet, 75011 Paris

EXHIBITION CATALOG

GALLERY
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Pierre Bonnefille - *Rhizome Bookshelf B*, 2023

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RHIZOME SERIES

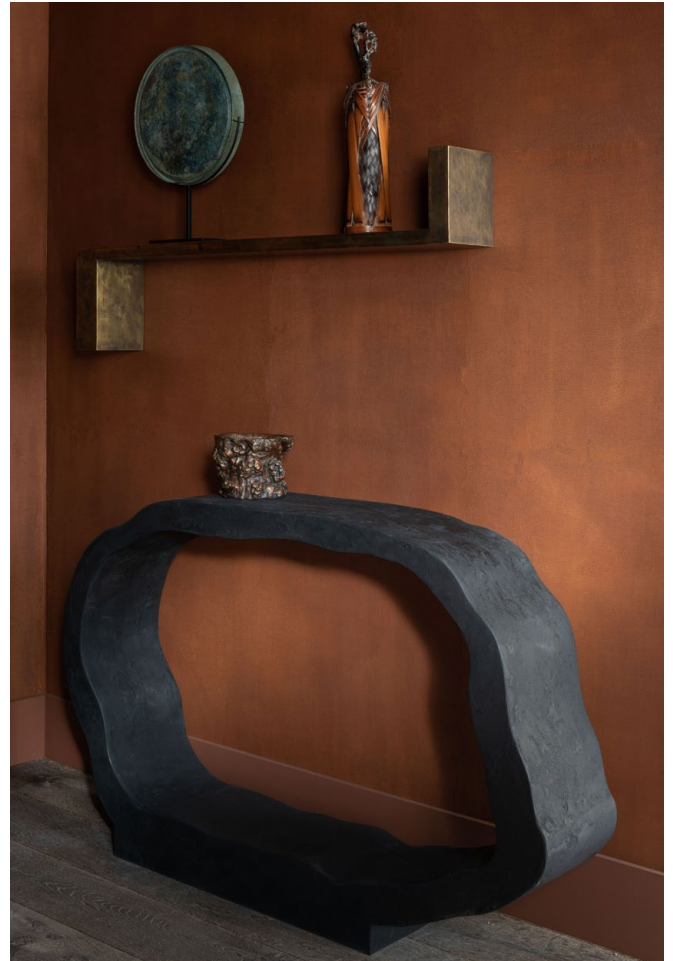
Rhizome immerses us in a world where nature is, for Pierre Bonnefille, a captivating and mysterious source of inspiration, and where the brush becomes the tool for creating a contemporary calligraphy inspired by vegetal energy.

In his artistic process, Pierre Bonnefille begins with a meticulous exploration of bamboo roots. He absorbs their structure, growth, and complexity, expressing the vitality of nature.

What starts as ink on paper gradually transforms into three-dimensional expression. Works from this series are the result of an artistic metamorphosis that brings these imagined roots to life. Organic shapes emerge from the pages, materializing into captivating monochrome sculptures.

More than sketches, Pierre Bonnefille's drawings form a kind of visual ideogram corpus that captures the essence of nature. They all express a search between fluidity and tension. The artist invites us to dive into this contemporary language, where every curve and line tells a profound story.

These works are a celebration of vegetal vitality, an invitation to contemplate our own relationship with the natural world.



Pierre Bonnefille - *Rhizome Console A* - AD Intérieurs 2019



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Pierre Bonnefille - *Rhizome Bench A* & *Bronze Painting 196* - Exhibition view *RHIZOME(S)*, 2023

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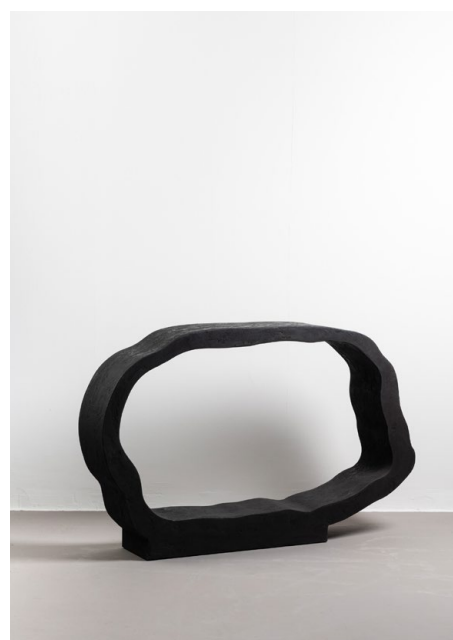
Pierre Bonnefille - *Rhizome Bench B*, 2023, *Furoshiki Carbone 98, 95 et 96*, 2023



Rhizome Console B, 2020



Rhizome Bookshelf A, 2021



Rhizome Console A, 2019

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Pierre Bonnefille - *Rhizome Console B & Furoshiki Carbone 95* - Exhibition view *RHIZOME(S)*, 2023

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RHIZOME(S)

Rhizome est un travail sculptural inspiré de la nature, une exploration à la croisée de la forme et de la fonction.

Cette série naît de la fascination de l'artiste pour les paniers japonais de l'ikebana. Ces paniers floraux témoignent de l'art ancien traditionnel du bambou tressé, arrivé à son point de perfection sous l'ère Meiji (XIXe siècle). Ces objets inspirent l'artiste par lente imprégnation. La racine du bambou, utilisée comme anse de ces paniers, porte en elle le souvenir qu'il lui a fallu pour faire son chemin dans la terre. Elle est matière et mouvement.

Poèmes sur l'énergie végétale, les réalisations issues de cette série présentent des caractéristiques sculpturales évidentes. Esquissées d'un trait de pinceau, les formes élancées donnent aux œuvres de cette série une tension particulière.

Expression monochrome, Pierre Bonnefille travaille la surface en couches successives en usant de poudres de fusain broyées qui viennent infuser la matière dans la masse.

Rhizome is a sculptural work inspired by nature, an exploration at the intersection of form and function.

This series is born from the artist's fascination with Japanese Ikebana baskets. These floral baskets bear witness to the ancient traditional art of woven bamboo, which reached its peak during the Meiji era (19th century). These objects inspire the artist through gradual immersion. The bamboo root, used as the handle of these baskets, carries within it the memory of the journey it took through the earth. It is matter and movement.

Poems on vegetal energy, the creations resulting from this series exhibit evident sculptural characteristics. Outlined with brushstrokes, the slender forms give these works a particular tension.

In a monochromatic approach, Pierre Bonnefille works the surface in successive layers, using ground charcoal powder that infuses the material into the mass.



PIERRE BONNEFILLE

BRONZE PAINTINGS SERIES

Bronze Paintings series is an exploratory research around bronze.

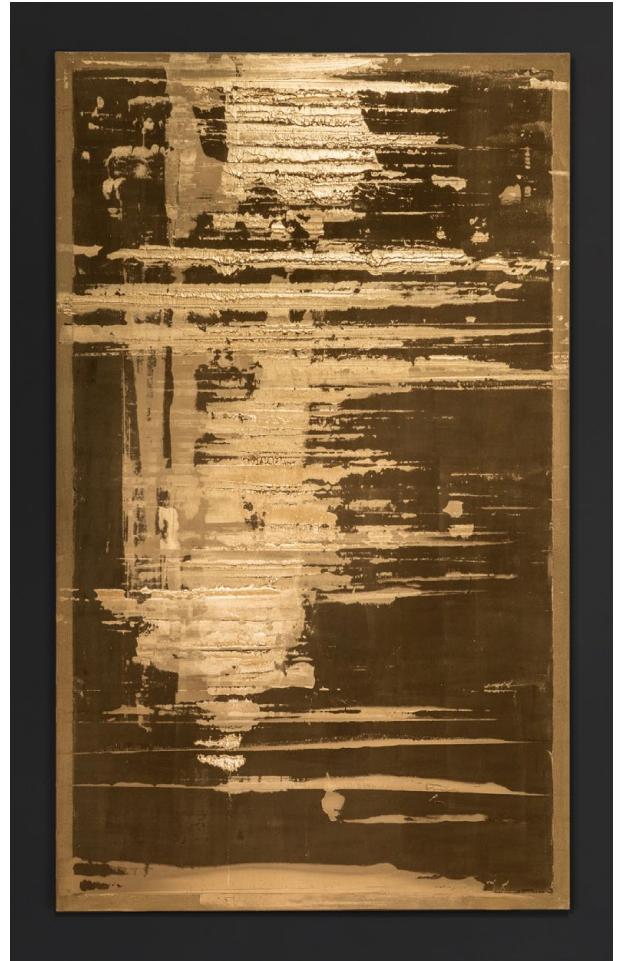
Far from traditional bronze work, Pierre Bonnefille only uses a specially created powder in this series, which he transforms with his unique language to form a very personal and unusual approach. The materiality of the bronze finds itself just as suspended in a metallic mesh in vibration.

Vibrating and finely shaded material, the metallic substance resonates in the light under the eye and hand of the artist, transposing his visions on his canvases.

A nurturing calm emanates from these creations, expressions of the strength of the artist's pictorial movement, exciting the imaginary and leading the subconscious in an intuitive journey, constantly renewed. Through these works, Pierre Bonnefille transposes a sensation, a sort of mental state felt when contemplating waterscape. It is this watery light, this feeling of liquid awareness that he expresses on these metallic works.

Under his hand, the bronze material stretches, liquefies and freezes in evanescent patterns on huge abstract canvases. An abstraction that finally invites the viewer to project their own imagination onto it, carried by the energy of the dichotomy between a subtle floating of forms and an apparent force of pictorial gesture.

The materiality of the crushed charcoal, matte and shiny, which composes the Carbon Paintings, reveals chimeras and black forms which appear and disappear in contact with light on the opaque surfaces of the frame.



Pierre Bonnefille - *Bronze Painting 192*, 2023



Studio View

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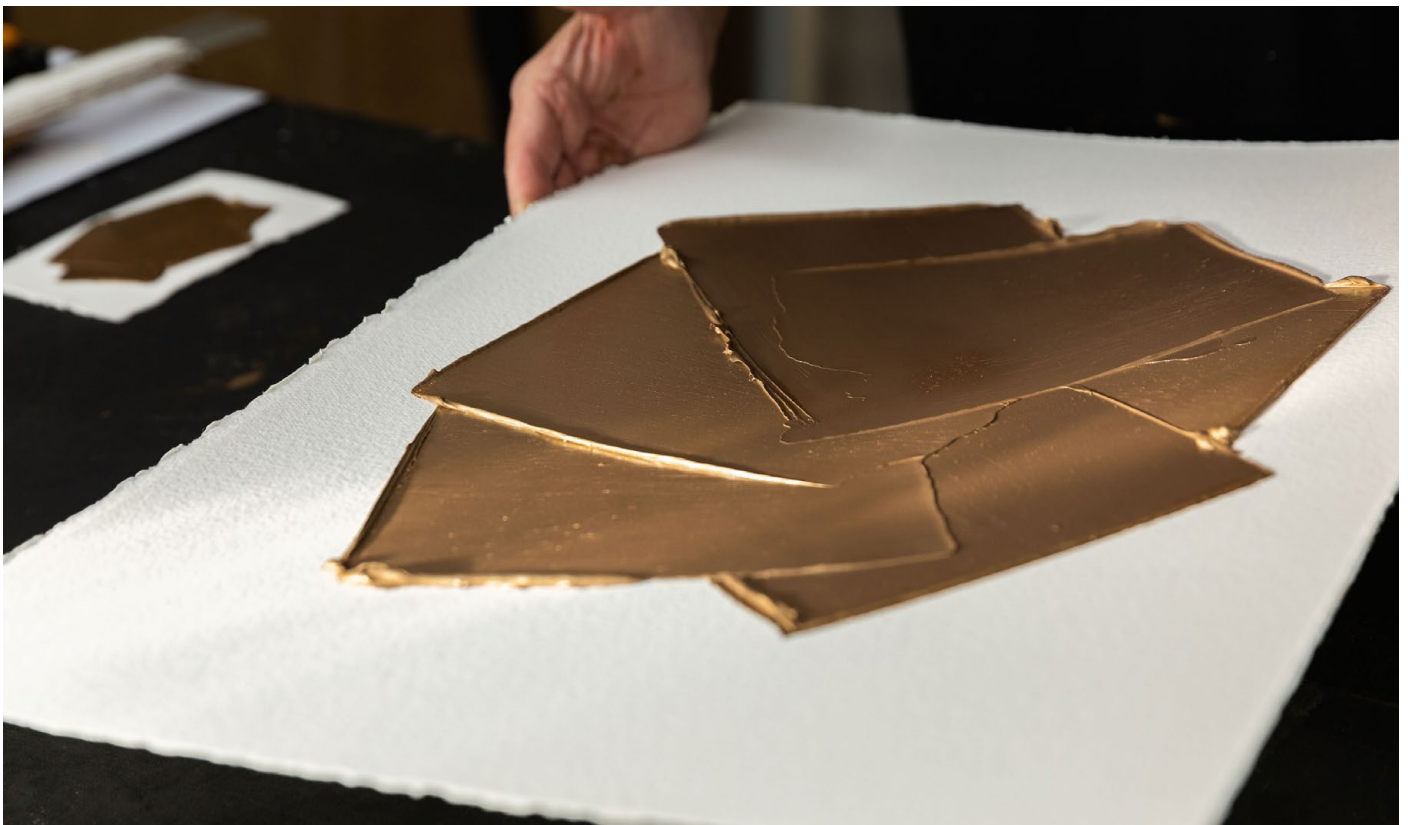
FUROSHIKI SERIES

This series of works on paper is inspired by the traditional Japanese art of Furoshiki, a prosaic and functional art inherited from the Nara period (VIIIth century) which brings together a set of folding and fabric knotting techniques.

Of vital importance in medieval Japan, these gestures have since taken on an almost ritual character. Impregnated by this succession of mastered gestures, Pierre Bonnefille transposes this technique to apply on paper a material composed of bronze or carbon. The generous and opaque texture accurately transcribes the precise gestures of the artist who compose in two dimensions the memory of a ritual in volume.



Pierre Bonnefille - *Furoshiki Carbone 94, 2023*



PIERRE BONNEFILLE

BIOGRAPHY

Pierre Bonnefille is a French artist, painter, designer and 'Maître d'art' (Art Master) of a singular and poetic approach. Born in 1958 in Saint-Quentin in the North of France, he has lived and worked in Paris since 1985.

A graduate of Ecole Boule and then of l'Ecole nationale des arts décoratifs de Paris, Pierre Bonnefille is passionate about materials and colors. «Maestro of chromatic chords», he draws his inspiration from his travels, and distils colours of infinite richness in his work as an artist and furniture designer.

Inspired by nature and landscapes, the vibrant surfaces of Pierre Bonnefille's works invest space, creating a unique and sensitive atmosphere. Working with natural pigments, mineral, limestone, lava or marble powders, one can recognize his imprint in the textured materials and harmonious colors that make up his wall creations as well as his furniture pieces.

At the beginning of the 90s, with the help of Olivier Gagnère and Yves Taralon, he signed the large red fresco on the walls of the Café Marly under the arcades of the Louvre. This first major public commission led him to quickly collaborate with other names in interior design and architecture: Rena Dumas, Michel Boyer, Philippe Starck, Christian Liaigre, Bruno Moinard and many others.

With material and color as a mean of expression, Pierre Bonnefille first oriented himself towards commissioned works, intervening in the context of private projects, hotels or restaurants and creating monumental mural works.

He collaborates with luxury brands such as Cartier, Hermès or Loro Piana among others. The international reputation of Pierre Bonnefille is affirmed by major interventions in Europe (Paris, London, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco etc...) in Asia or even in the US.

2015 and 2016 mark a turning point in the work of Pierre Bonnefille. His works Bronze Paintings inspired by the reflections of light on water resonate particularly with the public. An important series of exhibitions around this work will follow. From a carte blanche at the PAD London in 2016 (Leclair gallery), to a personal exhibition at the Musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet in 2021, through participation in the 2019 edition of the AD Intérieurs exhibition in Paris.

Pierre Bonnefille was appointed Maître d'Art in 2010 by Frédéric Mitterrand, then French Minister of Culture. In 2020, the prestigious Academy of Architecture awarded him the Médaille des Métiers d'Arts from the Paul Sédille Foundation, rewarding a career spanning 35 years as an artist-explorer.

In 2022, the Rhizome Bookshelf entered the Mobilier National permanent collections.



