

BIOGRAPHY

Laurent Martin “Lo”

Laurent Martin “Lo” (Paris, 1955) trained as a visual artist in ENSAD (Paris) and for many years he worked as creative director both in advertising and fashion. His first encounter with bamboo was totally circumstantial but it was “love at first sight”, the artist says. Bamboo became his obsession, really a passion, that drove the artist to change his life. He left behind his work, house, city...to set up on his first trip to the bamboo countries. Since then he has been traveling long roads in search of the essence of bamboo. Roads which have taken him all over the world to countries that are in what the artist calls “the bamboo belt”...an imaginary terrestrial parallel running around the tropics which, thanks to bamboo, unites far-flung peoples and connects, from Americas to Asia, diverse cultures.

He travelled to remote areas of Thailand, Laos and Vietnam where for many communities the bamboo is still the main resource. Living with them, Laurent learnt the craftsmanship and different uses of bamboo. He also discovered the emotionality and millenary tradition of bamboo as well as its sensuality and spirituality. When he travelled to Central and South America, he followed the work of architects and engineers who used bamboo’s natural properties, flexibility and hardiness, mixed with contemporary techniques and materials. The Indonesian trip meant the integration of bamboo’s emotional charges, the creativity and the architectural dimensions by discovering the fusion of traditional techniques with contemporary architecture.

Lo’s creative process has been mainly an evolution process. His creativity lies within his deep knowledge and understanding of bamboo. His artistic palette is within the physical and sensorial virtues of bamboo: its very sophisticated organic structure, but also its energy as well as its spirituality. Establishing an intimate dialogue with bamboo, Laurent experiments its flexibility, resistance, density, lightness, mathematics and poetry. A language that allows him to combine both tension and compression, creating sculptures based on movement and balance.

His bamboo structures swing, drawing curves and harmony in the air. With his subtle yet strong gestures, tensions and counterweights, the artist tells us about a fragile harmony that is achieved using opposites: flexibility and strength, fullness and void, light and shadow, movement and quietness. “Lo” invites the spectator to begin a personal dialogue with themselves looking for calm, serenity and balance in nature.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Bamboo Lover, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain
Solo Exhibition, Cartier, Paris, France
- 2022 Holy Circles, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain
Cadaqués Soul, Galería Patrick Domken, Cadaqués, Girona, Spain
Bamboo spaces, Sa Pleta Freda Gallery, Mallorca, Spain
Museu Can Mario, Girona, Spain
- 2021 Dialogue, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
Bamboo Swing, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain
Territorios compartidos, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2020 Crossing the void, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong
Solo Exhibition, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain
- 2019 Visions in motion, Puerta roja, Hong Kong
- 2018 Reflections, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
Variations, Art’Loft, Brussels, Belgium
Zhu Qi, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong

- 2017 Vents, Galeria Patrick Domken Cadaqués, Spain
Collectors Cabinet, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
Bamboo Trace, Contemporary International Bamboo Arts & Crafts, National Taiwan Crafts Taipei, Taiwan
Development Institute, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2016 Intangible Space, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
Sur les Chemins du Bambou, Sculpture Museum Can Mario, Spain
- 2015 Bamboo Sculptor 2005-2015, Espai Volart, Fundació Vila Casas, Barcelona, Spain
Taboo Bamboo, Patrick Domken Gallery, Cadaqués, Spain
10 Years with the Energy of Bamboo, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
HCH Gallery, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2014 Record'Art Cadaqués, Galería Patrick Domken, Cadaqués, Spain
Bamboo Sail, Galeria Casavells, Girona, Spain
- 2013 Bamboo Energy, Ars et Scientia, Centro Médico Teknon, Barcelona, Spain
Inside Bamboo, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain
Movement and Space, Marges-U, Cadaqués, Spain
Appertizers of Art, HCH Gallery, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2012 One Bamboo Show, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain
Bamboo Spheres, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
Bamboo Spheres, Ingracia Space, Barcelona, Spain
- 2011 Organic Geometry, Aina Nowack Gallery, Madrid, Spain
The Soul of Wind, Tramuntan'art, Port de la Selva, Spain
- 2010 Bamboo Mind, HCH Gallery, The Hague, The Netherlands
Galaxy, Impar Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil
Inside Bamboo, Àmbit Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
Bamboo Dreams, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
Alphabet of Wind, Galería Pilar Riberaygua, Andorra
Bamboo Spirit, K Space, Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain
- 2009 Dream with Woman and Boat, Ruta de l'Art, Castelló d'Empúries, Spain (2010) Form and Colour, N2
Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
The Route of Art, Castelló d'Empúries, Spain
The Dead Nature, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
- 2008 At the Edge of the Wind, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
Body Bamboo, Ctartica Gallery, Torino, Italy
- 2007 Bamboo Wind, N3 Gallery, Madrid, Spain
Bamboo Space, N2 Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
Galería Juan Planellas, Tossa de Mar, Spain
- 2006 Bamboo Gove, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
Large Formats, Galería Ignacio de Lassaletta, Barcelona, Spain
- 2005 Bamboo Art Work Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
Small Formats, Galería Ignacio de Lassaletta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- SPACIOUS, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong (2022)
Love in the Dream, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong (2021)
The clown Spirit, Ronny Van De Velde Gallery, Antwerpen, Belgium (2020)
Territorios Compartidos, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong (2019)
Bailar de Arquitectura, Fernán Gómez, Madrid, Spain (2019)
Las formas de la luz, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2019)
TOC, DA2, Domus Artium 2002, Salamanca, Spain (2016)
Poétique quotidienne, Galerie Youn, Montreal, Canada (2016)
This is not a love song, Pera Museum, Istanbul (2015)
Expanded light: new technologies in spanish videoart, Telefónica Foundation, Madrid, Spain (2015)

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Shinedale Golf & Resort, Seoul, South Korea

Fundació Vila Casas, Barcelona, Spain

Museo Can Mario, Palafrugell, Spain

Koo House Museum of Art and Design Collection, Seoul, South Korea

Kai Yin Lo Collection, Hong Kong

Sun-Jet Collection, Vicky Liang, Taipei, Taiwan