

PRESS RELEASE



ASTRE MOBILE :

a transparent car transformed into a work of art, between craftsmanship, matter and imagination.

Astre Mobile is a transparent car that keeps its secrets, whether in motion or at rest. Conceived as a fully-fledged artwork, it falls within the tradition of Art Cars, in which the automobile becomes a medium for artistic expression. It is at once a sculpture, a cabinet of curiosities, and a proposal for interior design.

Imagined and artistically directed by Antoine Tauvel, Artistic Director of Maison Lacmé, Astre Mobile emerges from an in-depth design process combining drawings, formal research, scale models and sculptural prototypes. The result is a blend of luxury and simplicity; noble, durable materials bear the trace of the ephemeral, of movement and of gesture.

This work is also a celebration of encounter and collective creation. Around ten French master craftspeople were invited to contribute. Gold, onyx, shells, wood, leather, feathers, lacquer, porcelain: each material is treated as a language, each piece as an autonomous work. From the steering wheel to the dashboard, from the gear knob to the upholstery, the objects of everyday use are transformed and reinterpreted through Antoine Tauvel's original artistic intentions.

Astre Mobile thus reveals itself as a mobile cabinet of curiosities. A work that can be taken in as a whole or fragmented, lingering over each detail. The separate parts can also be diverted from their original purpose — with many surprises, such as the stone hubcaps that become a lamp and are replaced by their trompe-l'œil version, or the car's logo transformed into a piece of jewellery, and so on. An invitation to slow the gaze, to explore matter, to let imagination take hold.

The project draws on recurring themes in Antoine Tauvel's practice: movement, time, play, the bond with the elements, the sun, the moon and the stars. Each contribution enters into dialogue with these themes, from the artisanal gesture to the evocation of broader phenomena, from touch to light.

At once object, artwork and experience, Astre Mobile questions our relationship to objects and their use. It offers a different reading of the automobile: no longer merely a means of transport, but a territory of creation and reverie.

“This is not a car. It is an unidentified rolling object, a vehicle of poetic exploration that marks the beginning of Maison Lacmé's journey, and opens a future exploration between art, design and fine craftsmanship.”

Antoine TAUVEL

Astre Mobile will be unveiled and exhibited for the first time from 9 to 27 September 2026, during Paris Design Week and the European Heritage Days, in the Cour de l'Intendant at the Hôtel de la Marine, Place de la Concorde, Paris.



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Astre Mobile brings together around ten French master craftspeople, including:

- Feather marquetry dashboard — Maison Vermeulen
- Shell-embroidered upholstery — Aurélie Lanoizelée
- Porcelain gear lever — Ateliers Arqué
- Heating unit — heliogravure by Fanny Boucher, gilded with gold leaf by Lise Richardot
- Driftwood steering wheel — Claude Prautois
- Urushi lacquer key — Alexandre Duboc
- Russian leather pieces — Élise Blouet-Ménard
- White onyx hubcaps — Hervé Obligi
- Trompe-l'œil white onyx hubcaps — Pierre-Yves Morel
- Metallic embroidery logo — Marie Archambaud

Paris Design Week is a leading contemporary design event that transforms Paris each year into an open-air creative journey, bringing together designers, craftspeople, galleries, publishers and cultural institutions. Over ten days, the event highlights new forms of creation, know-how and the dialogues between heritage, innovation and the decorative arts.

The Hôtel de la Marine, a monument located on the Place de la Concorde, opened to the public in June 2021 following a restoration campaign led by the Centre des monuments nationaux. At the end of the 18th century it housed the Garde-Meuble de la Couronne, the institution responsible for furnishing the royal residences and maintaining their furniture, and then, from the French Revolution onwards, the Ministry of the Navy.

Maison Lacmé is a creative studio founded by Cécile and Antoine Tauvel. Their approach combines art, design, and fine craftsmanship, with a particular focus on collaborations and expertise. Astre Mobile marks the first work resulting from this shared exploration.

Together, they work with collectors, interior designers, institutions, and luxury brands. Their goal: to bring to life dreamlike worlds and objects, to rekindle wonder, celebrate the beauty of the moment, and weave stories to be shared, where exchanges are born and time fades away.

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High-resolution visuals available on request



