

PRESS RELEASE

ASTRE MOBILE

Maison Lacmé transforms a transparent automobile into a work of art through the exceptional savoir-faire of twelve French artisans

Paris, September 2026 — Maison Lacmé unveils Astre Mobile, its first manifesto work, from 9 to 27 September 2026 at the Hôtel de la Marine, Place de la Concorde, as part of Paris Design Week. Conceived and artistically directed by Antoine Tauvel following two years of development, this transparent, fully functional automobile brings together twelve exceptional French artisans and their savoir-faire to reinterpret its individual components.

1. A CONTEMPORARY ART CAR

Astre Mobile follows in the tradition of Art Cars, shifting the artistic intervention from the bodywork to the vehicle's individual components. The steering wheel, speedometer, gear lever, upholstery, hubcaps, and Maison Lacmé emblem are redesigned and crafted through exceptional savoir-faire rooted in the French decorative arts.

Fully functional, the car becomes at once a work of art, a mobile cabinet of curiosities, and an entirely reimagined interior space.

2. TRANSPARENCY AS REVELATION

The transparent bodywork is the starting point of the project. Rather than concealing the structure and components, it exposes them, revealing the soul of the car. The automobile becomes a mobile showcase in which mechanics, materials, and craftsmanship are made visible, down to the most hidden details.

3. A CONSTELLATION OF TWELVE EXCEPTIONAL SAVOIR-FAIRE

Twelve outstanding French artisans have been brought together under the artistic direction of Antoine Tauvel for Maison Lacmé. Feather marquetry, porcelain, art embroidery, heliogravure, gold-leaf gilding, urushi lacquer, stone carving, and Russian leatherwork: each savoir-faire is applied to a specific piece while contributing to a shared artistic vision.

4. AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS REIMAGINED

The car's functional elements become a field for creation: a driftwood steering wheel, a feather-marquetry speedometer, a porcelain gear knob, upholstery embroidered with seashells, white onyx hubcaps, and an urushi-lacquered key.

Astre Mobile thus brings ordinary automotive components into dialogue with materials and exceptional savoir-faire traditionally associated with the decorative arts.

5. EACH PIECE, A WORK OF ART IN ITS OWN RIGHT

Several elements have been designed to leave the car and take on a second function, following the principle of reversibility at the heart of Antoine Tauvel's artistic vision. The white onyx hubcaps become a lamp and are replaced on the vehicle by their trompe-l'œil counterparts; the Maison Lacmé emblem can be detached and worn as a piece of fine jewellery; the speedometer becomes a table clock — along with many other surprises.

The automobile thus unfolds into a collection of works that can exist either with or independently of it.



COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE



MAISON LACMÉ CELEBRATES FRENCH EXCELLENCE

Feather marquetry — Maison Vermeulen / Julien Vermeulen

Liliane Bettencourt Prize for the Intelligence of the Hand – Exceptional Talents 2018.

Art embroidery — Aurélie Lanoiselée

Liliane Bettencourt Prize for the Intelligence of the Hand 2009; Grand Prix de la Création de la Ville de Paris 2011; member of the Grands Ateliers de France.

Porcelain — Ateliers Arquie / Grégory Rosenblat

Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant (Living Heritage Company); Liliane Bettencourt Prize for the Intelligence of the Hand 2021; member of the Grands Ateliers de France.

Heliogravure — Fanny Boucher, Atelier Héliog

Maître d'Art 2015; Liliane Bettencourt Prize for the Intelligence of the Hand 2020; member of the Grands Ateliers de France.

Gold-leaf gilding — Lise Richardot, Atelier Acanthe

Trophée Madame Artisanat 2025.

Wooden steering-wheel sculpture — Claude Prautois

A leading specialist in the restoration of steering wheels for historic and collectible automobiles.

Urushi lacquer — Alexandre Duboc

Member of the Grands Ateliers de France.

Russian leather — Élise Blouet-Ménard

Prix des Artisanes LVMH x ELLE 2024, "Preservation of French Heritage" category.

Stone carving — Hervé Obligi

Maître d'Art 2015; Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant; Talent de l'Originalité Award 2022; member of the Grands Ateliers de France.

Decorative painting and trompe-l'œil — Pierre-Yves Morel

Collaborations with the Mobilier national; AD Talent, "Tomorrow's Decoration".

Metal embroidery — Marie Archambaud

Specialist in goldwork embroidery and precious metal threads.

Fine cabinetmaking — Pino Amato

Specialist in bespoke creations incorporating ingenious mechanisms.

ABOUT MAISON LACMÉ

Founded by Cécile and Antoine Tauvel, Maison Lacmé is a creative house that transforms familiar objects into works of art by bringing together contemporary creation and exceptional savoir-faire. Under the artistic direction of Antoine Tauvel, Maison Lacmé conceives bespoke projects and brings together, for each creation, the exceptional artisans whose expertise is required to bring it to life.

Astre Mobile is Maison Lacmé's first manifesto work and the first public expression of its artistic vision.



Crédit photos : Kevin Van Campenhout

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High-resolution images available upon request.

