

# BEN BROWN

- *Press Release for immediate release* -

## **Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne – *Sculpture***

30 May – 30 June 2007  
Private View 29 May 2007 6-8pm

Ben Brown Fine Art is pleased to present these beautiful sculptures by the Lalannes. The gallery is especially proud to present their work again, 31 years after their Whitechapel Art Gallery show, their last one in England. Over the past 35 years they have created masterpieces that are individual to both artists and their personal perspectives. They work together to create an inspiring, imaginary world that invites the spectator to envisage and participate in a wonderfully uncomplicated art that is enjoyed by all. Combining modern methods with traditional craftsmanship, they create objects 'to live with' through a visionary talent that transcends uniformity and standard expectations of modern design.

They appear to work outside the circles of the major artistic movements of the time and in what appears as joyful innocence in rejection of the demands for art of the time. Their independence as artists and desire to work against the grain is what won them their critical acclaim. They create a sculptural fiction, their works reflect the most vivid metaphors of speech, diverting the attention and creating amusement. Their skills work to compliment each other, François-Xavier thinking practically and Claude improvising freely.

Claude Lalanne's work is said to provide a perhaps more understated charm. She chooses an organic poetic approach to forms mainly that of natural animal and plant forms. Through the skilled technique of electro plating she places her signature on the delicacy and sensitivity of her sculpture. Following on from Renaissance artists she re-discovered the art of casting natural forms directly from life and through the years produced a body of work incorporating these elements.

François-Xavier works on the structure and the play of the masses, and his synthetic approach is the basis of the work's profound simplicity and majesty. His rejection of geometrical abstraction, as well as of typically modernist design, comes from his decision to promote the tactile quality of his media. His sculptures get at 'the cubic truth', of which Rodin has spoken. He has created a unique fantasy, which remains today a leading example for urbanists and landscape architects.

The work of the Lalannes happily unites the animal, the vegetable and human. Fantastic animals are the components of an artistic landscape, which leads the spectator to entering upon an adventurous voyage of the Lalanne imaginary world. This joyful exhibition will present the Lalannes and their wonderful sculptures that have become admired and renowned worldwide. They have exhibited extensively in some of the most celebrated and enjoyed exhibitions of this century. Their work is represented in some of the most exciting collections today.

A catalogue was published for the successful joint exhibition at Paul Kasmin Gallery in New York (16<sup>th</sup> November 2006 – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2007) and is available.

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