



PARIS FLEA MARKET WEEKLY

20 november 2020
#10

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PARIS FLEA MARKET

We shine a light on three major trends
in modern lighting fixtures

INSPIRATION

**Brilliant ideas to light up the holiday season
from the Paris/Saint-Ouen Flea Market**



INSPIRATION

While the nights are the longest of the year and Paris kicks off its end-of-year illuminations on November 22, spotlight on three major trends in modern lighting: futurism, revisited baroque and Belle Époque naturalism – in other words, how to find at the Paris Flea Market a wealth of bright ideas to light up the holiday season.



METAL AND PLASTIC: A VISION OF FUTURISM

Since the 1900 Universal Exhibition, when the banks of the Seine were illuminated by the «Electricity fairy», lighting became the major concern of the decorative arts of the 20th century, an unlimited field of experimentation and the symbol of progress.

Today a major decoration trend is in the 1960s-1970s revival; we rediscover this period when designers explored the possibilities of plastic and the elegance of chromed metal.

In the aisles of the Paul Bert Market, you can find rare lighting fixtures such as a 1970 pendulum metal lamp by Pierre Soulié at the **Galerie Corcos**, with its airs of planets in orbit, very much in the “space age” trend that followed the 1969 lunar exploration.

This metallic and playful vein is still in the minds of designers in 1981, when Ettore Sottsass launched the *Memphis* movement which mixes art, design, architecture and graphics.

The result is the *Charleston* floor lamp (1987) in baby blue metal by designer Martine Bedin, which can be found in Biron Market at **Caroline Margeridon's**. *Memphis* co-founder Martine Bedin created the iconic *Super* lamp (1981) in the shape of a car bristling with light bulbs. The light bulb, in its luminous technical and formal perfection, is a work in its own right for the German lighting designer Ingo Maurer, who creates in 1964 the *Bulb* lamp which is acquired by MoMA the following year. Its “sister”, the *Bulb Bulb* light, large wired light bulb from the 1970s, is displayed in Dauphine Market at **Maryam Ahi's**.

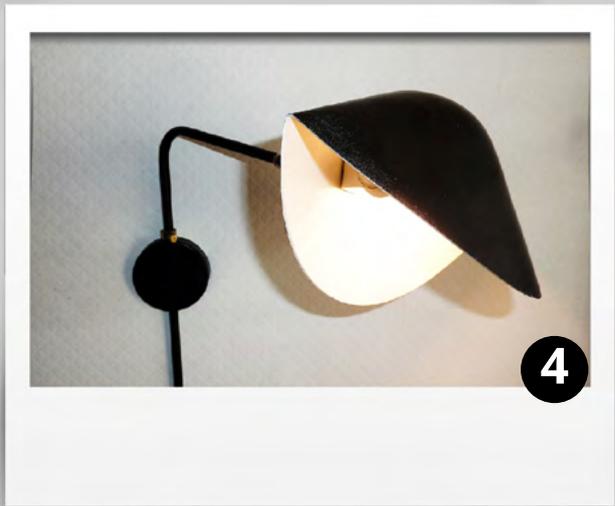
Today the experiments on light continue. Visual artist Peter Keene in search of a possible awareness of the machine, created the *Area 42 wall* lamp (2008), visible, still in Paul Bert, at **Cyril Grizot's**: two light tubes crossed like lasers in *Star Wars*, mobile at will. A benevolent lighting machine. Even when ultramodern, inanimate objects have a soul.



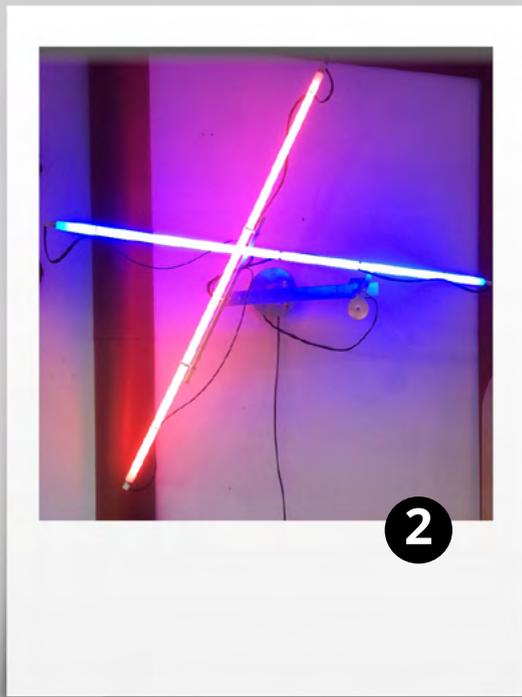
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1 Martine Bedin, Charleston floor lamp, 1987 – Caroline Margeridon 2 Peter Keene, wall light Area 42, 2008 – Cyril Grizot 3 Pierre Soulié, pendulum light, ca. 1970 – Galerie Corcos 4 Serge Mouille, wall light with a pendulum art «Antony», 1955 – Lawrence & Aurélia 5 Ingo Maurer, Bulb Bulb lamp, ca. 1975 – Galerie Maryam Ahi.

FIREWORKS: REVISITED BAROQUE

The 20th century is far from being satisfied with modernist aspirations. It retains a poetic vein mixed with styles from the past, as in Cocteau's films.

Crystal chandeliers never go out of fashion. At Dauphine Market, we find at **William Vonthron**, an essential specialist in antique lighting, an extraordinary 18th century «laced» pendant light, a crystal beads air balloon recalling the Trianon.

Closer to us, the ironworker and decorator Gilbert Poillerat was inspired from the 1920s by the 17th century French style, as in a rare pair of 1940 lanterns in frosted glass and gilded wrought iron, to be discovered at **Lionel Sanderson's** in Paul Bert.

In Serpette Market, at **Pelazzo L'excellent**, the free-form lamps in colored ceramic by Gilbert Valentin, a friend of Cocteau and Prévert, tell of the revival of ceramics in Vallauris in the 1950s-1960s.

At the same time, glass found a second youth in Murano, with its bright colors and the madness of its volutes. **Thomas Tardif**, in Serpette, collected four candy-colored lamp bases designed in 1950 by Flavio Poli, the most colorist of all Murano designers. In Biron Market, we are ecstatic at **Moufflet & C° - Paris Fine Arts** in front of a 1960s chandelier by glassmaker Pauly & C, one of the oldest in Venice: veritable fireworks of colored streamers bursting from an opalescent cup.



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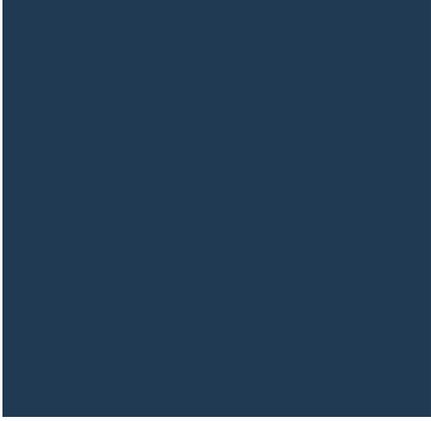


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- 1 *Pauly & C, Venetian, 1960-1970
Moufflet & Co - Paris Fine Arts*
 - 2 *Flavio Poli for Murano, lamp bases,
1950-1960 - Thomas Tardif*
 - 3 *Gilbert Poillerat, pair of lanterns,
late 1940s - Lionel Sanderson.*
 - 4 *Gilbert Valentin, ceramics lights Les Archanges, 1960 - Pelazzo L'excellent*
 - 5 *Philippe Cuny, blue Lyre, 1992 - Adrienne Lebrun.*



AN ODE TO THE ORGANIC: BELLE ÉPOQUE NATURALISM

Experiments between light bulbs and translucent glass began as soon as in the Belle Epoque.

The lights from this period appear in small poetic touches in trendy interiors. We find in Biron market at **Pascal Berro's** and **BG Arts'** the glass paste luminous jewels from the 1910s-1920s by Gabriel Argy Rousseau, great French master of this luxurious glass technique.

The Art Nouveau jeweler René Lalique imposed molded glass lightings in the colors of gems and with a Japanese-style simplicity, such as the Passiflore amber glass chandelier from 1924 also presented by **BG Arts**.

The Lalique style has attracted a lot of enthusiasm. The charming 1930 table lamp by Hettier and Vincent which illuminates **L'Atelier de la dorure's** booth in Biron with its patterns of flowers and butterflies molded in the glass is its very embodiment.

Pure French Art Deco, an ode to nature reluctant to total abstraction advocated by modernists, which today charms the whole world, akin to another Enlightenment spirit.



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- ① Gabriel Argy-Rousseau, *Le Panier Fleuri* (the flower basket), ca. 1925 – Pascal Berro
② Gabriel Argy-Rousseau, *chandelier Sept Rosaces*, 1926 – BG Arts
③ Hettier et Vincent, *desk lamp*, ca. 1930 – *L'atelier de la dorure*
④ René Lalique, *chandelier Passiflore*, 1924
BG Arts.

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*Napoléon III
crystals and bronze chandelier
Galerie Vonthron*

INFORMATIONS

PARIS/SAINT-OUEN FLEA MARKET

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CURRENT RESTRICTIONS, THE PARIS FLEA MARKET IS CLOSED DURING THE ONGOING NATIONAL LOCKDOWN.

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