

PRESS RELEASE

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Pompeii-x

***What is the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD
had happend later?***

**An art & design project by Jimmy Delatour
In collaboration with Les Marbreries de la Seine**

September 4 – December 6, 2025

Galerie BSL 14 rue des Beaux-Arts 75006 Paris

With 'Pompeii-x', Jimmy Delatour invites us to explore a city frozen in time yet projected into another era—an alternative reality of Pompeii shaped by his imagination.

At Galerie BSL, his vision reinterprets Pompeii's legacy as a future relic. Sculptural furniture in Italian natural stone and wall-based works give form to this narrative that stands at the intersection of fiction and memory.

Crafted in Italy by Les Marbreries de la Seine, the *Pompeii-x* collection brings together a series of sculptural pieces in travertine and marble — including a console, a meridienne, a bench, and a coffee table. The volumes are bold, the geometries elemental, the lines taut and radical. Reimagining the furniture of ancient Pompeii through the lens of utopia and contemporary design, the collection combines brutalist aesthetics with modernist heritage, infused with futuristic influence.

These limited-edition design pieces are accompanied by a series of wall works titled *Artifacts*: altered objects, transformed images, and hybrid compositions—each conceived as fictional relics from a suspended world. Together, they extend a reflection on the memory of forms, the fragility of civilizations, and the narratives we choose to pass on.

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The exhibition at Galerie BSL

Galerie BSL presents 'Pompeii-x', an exhibition that examines not only the legacy but also the future of a city frozen in time, offering a reading shaped by both fiction and memory.

In this project, French artist and designer Jimmy Delatour explores an alternate history: what might have become of Pompeii if the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD—the "x" event—had occurred centuries or even millennia later? He shares his interpretation of this speculative reality through a series of furniture pieces and wall works, or 'Artifacts'. Delatour's conceptually driven practice questions the symbolic, physical, and emotional representations of objects.

With this exhibition, Galerie BSL continues its commitment to meaningful collectible design at the intersection of function and conceptual exploration. Delatour's works are exhibited in conversation with pieces by other artists and designers from the gallery.

The *Pompeii-x* Furniture: Sculptural Design & Archaeological Fiction

The *Pompeii-x* furniture collection is composed of pieces in Italian natural stone, conceived as archaeological fragments from an undefined timeline. The wood and metal of ancient Pompeii's furniture have vanished—replaced by travertine and marble, evoking a contemporary vision of ancient Rome, one we know primarily through architecture.

Console, meridienne, bench, daybed, coffee table, mirror... each piece asserts both sculptural presence and formal restraint. The volumes are intentionally bold, the geometries elemental, the lines taut and radical. Delatour revisits ancient Pompeii through the prism of utopia and design, blending brutalist aesthetic with modernist heritage, subtly infused with futurism.

Produced in Italy by Les Marbreries de la Seine— a renowned French stone house with three generations of artisanal excellence—the pieces feature three natural stones: the alabaster-like light-blond Travertino Alabastrino, the deep green Verde Alpi marble, and the pink-hued Breccia Pernice marble. Exceptional craftsmanship here brings to life a narrative shaped by touch and feeling. The stones, selected for their intentionally faded palette, are given honed or sandblasted finishes, as if patinated by time itself.

In their indoor versions, the seating includes celadon silk-velvet cushions that soften the stone with a luminous and tactile delicacy.

The *Artifacts*: Hybrid Relics from a Suspended World

Complementing the collectible furniture pieces is a series of wall works titled *Artifacts*, conceived by Jimmy Delatour as fictional relics. Altered objects, transformed images, hybrid compositions—each element suggests a fragment of an unfinished narrative, remnants of a vanished culture, a reconstructed past, or an imagined future.

Testaments to an absent world, these *Artifacts* continue a reflection on time, the vulnerability of societies, and the recurring cycle of catastrophes. The present day subtly asserts itself through the notion of alternate realities, now promoted by regimes hostile to the truths of both nature and history.

Jimmy Delatour

Jimmy Delatour is a French artist and designer born in 1985 in Paris. A graduate of ESAG Penninghen in 2008, he founded Delatour Design Paris, originally focused on art direction and brand design for clients such as Orange, Peugeot, Hédiard, the Rodin Museum, and the Paris Opera.

In 2017, he pivoted toward creating limited-edition furniture and art pieces, shown at leading international galleries including Galerie BSL (France), StudioTwentySeven (USA), Freeman Gallery (Australia), and Armel Soyer (France).

Deeply inspired by architecture across eras—particularly modernism and brutalism—his work is marked by sculptural presence, bold volumes, and elemental geometry. Delatour approaches the object as a tension point between form and meaning, exploring its physical, symbolic, and emotional dimensions. His process fosters a fluid dialogue between design and conceptual art, imbuing each object with a narrative charge where function intersects with memory, geography, and the imaginary.

Among his signature works are the *Brutalist Totems* in marble or onyx, evoking ritual figures and hiding a cavity intended to hold a personal message. His *Origins* collection, developed during an artist residency in Australia, explores the contrast between the mineral dryness of the Outback and the organic fluidity of coastal landscapes—referencing ancestral ties to Aboriginal culture. For StudioTwentySeven in the U.S., he created the *Anti-collection* with Italian marble specialist Serafini. The series, including the monumental *Anti-table*, challenges daily rituals and consumption habits through its central void.

In 2023, Delatour began collaborating with Trussardi Casa, transposing his sculptural language into the realm of high-end industrial design. His approach reinterprets the codes of luxury, highlighting the sensuality of materials through a distinctly sculptural expressiveness.

In 2025, the exhibition ‘Pompeii-x’ at Galerie BSL (Paris) marks a significant milestone in his career. Jimmy Delatour asserts his vision of the object as both sculpture and narrative, offering his personal reading of Pompeii’s legacy while exploring the memory of forms and the concept of fictional archaeology. The presentation brings together a series of wall-based works and often-monumental furniture pieces in Italian natural stone, crafted by Les Marbreries de la Seine.

Les Marbreries de la Seine

For three generations, Les Marbreries de la Seine have cultivated exceptional expertise in working with natural stone. Based in Paris and Italy, the French family-run firm—led by Jean-Pascal Morvidoni—collaborates with leading names in architecture, design, and decoration, both in France and internationally.

Combining artisanal tradition with technical innovation, Les Marbreries de la Seine oversee the entire process—from material sourcing to production to final installation. Their expertise spans luxury interior architecture, collectible furniture, art objects, and bespoke projects for emblematic venues such as the Hôtel de Crillon and the Cartier flagship on rue de la Paix.

Committed to transmission and experimentation, they support both emerging and established designers in creating contemporary pieces. Their practice reflects a desire to push the boundaries of the medium—exploring new forms and uses while revealing the nobility and singularity of each stone.

In 2025, they partner with Jimmy Delatour and Galerie BSL for the *Pompeii-x* collection—an ambitious ensemble of sculptural furniture. This collaboration embodies a unique dialogue between exceptional craftsmanship and contemporary creation. Their mastery makes it possible to bring fictional archaeology to life, handling the complex challenges of cutting, assembling, and working with monumental blocks of stone. The Travertino Alabastrino, Verde Alpi, and Breccia Pernice marbles are finished with honed or sandblasted textures, as if weathered by centuries.