

JOSEPH WALSH

CENTRE DES
MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

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Joseph Walsh Takes Over the Hôtel de Sully

A major site-specific installation presented as part of Paris Design Week 2026

***Arcanum Formæ*, on view from 10 September to 25 October 2026**

Hôtel de Sully — 5 place des Vosges / 62 rue Saint-Antoine, Paris



A scale Model of the Magnus Monumental Sculptures in the courtyard and garden of the Hotel de Sully. Photo credit: Donnacha O'Brien, courtesy of Joseph Walsh Studio.

Joseph Walsh unveils a unique installation opening in September 2026 at the Hôtel de Sully, the headquarters of the French National Monuments. Opening during Paris Design Week and unfolding through Paris Fashion Week and Art Basel Paris, this exhibition marks a pivotal moment in Walsh's practice in Europe.

Set within the historic Orangerie and grounds of the Hôtel de Sully, a key destination of Paris Design Week, the exhibition unfolds across the prestigious site, from the interior to the surrounding garden. Walsh inhabits the hôtel particulier in a continuous flow, creating a seamless dialogue between architecture, landscape and design.

Conceived as a site-specific installation, the project transforms the Hôtel de Sully, one of the most beautiful hôtel particuliers in the Marais, into an immersive environment, where works are experienced in direct relationship with architecture, light and history.

A new body of work: material, time, transformation

The exhibition brings together an entirely new body of work, spanning both commissioned pieces and studio-led explorations.

Across the installation, Walsh responds directly to the Hôtel de Sully with a body of work shaped by the interplay between tradition and contemporaneity, interior and exterior. Two major new sculptures in the courtyard and garden mark the entrance to the hôtel, while inside the Orangerie, a carefully composed ensemble of works unfolds through the interior spaces - together drawing on the singular character of the site to create an experience inseparable from its setting. In the garden, a monumental *Magnus* sculpture anchors the installation, its form conceived in direct dialogue with the surrounding architecture and landscape. Inside the Orangerie, further works unfold across the interior spaces, revealing the breadth of forms explored by the Studio.



A scale Model of the Magnus Monumental Sculptures in the courtyard and garden of the Hotel de Sully. Photo credit: Donnacha O'Brien, courtesy of Joseph Walsh Studio.

The Garden

Paris' exhibition marks the first public installation of the *Magnus* series in Europe. A circular form transitioning from bronze to wood and finished in gold leaf, the sculpture is composed as a single continuum: the lower half cast in bronze, retaining the texture of the maker's hand, while the upper section is formed in high-performance oak through a three-dimensional free-form lamination process developed by the Studio, allowing the structure to balance strength and lightness. The gilded surface subtly reveals the wood grain and hand-worked bronze beneath - details that disclose themselves gradually as the viewer

approaches. Beyond its visual qualities, the gold also plays a protective role, reflecting light and contributing to the longevity of the work.

The form symbolises the relationship between man and nature, representing the passing of time and nature's cycles. The first gilded iteration, *Magnus RINN*, was presented at the Irish Pavilion at Osaka World Expo 2025, where Walsh reflected on the relationship between Ireland and Japan, and has since taken its place at Chion-in Temple in Kyoto. The Paris installation continues the Studio's exploration of the malleability and permeability of wood, bronze and gold leaf, expanding the work into the landscape where it engages directly with light, weather and the passage of time.



Magnus RINN at Chion-in Temple, Kyoto, Japan. Photo: Ito Makoto, courtesy of Joseph Walsh Studio.



Magnus Rinn in production. Photos by Norman Wilcox.

The Orangerie



Joseph Walsh and his team at the Fartha workshop, County Cork, Ireland. The *Enignum Dining Table*, on view at the Hôtel de Sully, is the only example of its kind to have been created in walnut to date.

Alongside bespoke works developed in response to specific collectors, Walsh introduces new creations from the *Tree Legacy Project*, the Studio's ongoing initiative through which rare, centuries-old trees are transformed into works whose histories remain embedded within their form. These works reflect a deeper engagement with material, not only as a medium, but as a living witness to time.

The *Enignum Table* commands the space - conceived specifically for the Hôtel de Sully, its rich burr walnut surface resonates with the Orangerie's marks of time and long history.

The *Dommus III Armchairs* in walnut, shown for the first time, extend an harmonious line from the table outward into the space.

Alongside, the *Gestures Cabinet*, one of three unique cabinets commissioned to house a collection of early Chinese porcelain, presents surfaces emerging from carved ash in a free-form composition distinguished by the wood's natural grain with hinges forged and sculpted in bronze.

A games table and its accompanying chairs, expressly created to continue the gestural line of the hand, anchor the ensemble. The composition of table and chairs is made in yew wood, a slow-growing rare timber.

The *Novasedes Bench* carries a quieter narrative: born from a centuries-old elm tree lost to disease - the same tree from which the Studio created the first Novasedes bench, now in the Austrian castle where the tree once stood.

The *Enignum Forma* sculptures complete the composition within the Orangerie. Sculptural studies, Joseph Walsh creates only a few pieces each year - each is very personal and represents the most intimate aspect of his work and expression.

Outside the Orangerie, a new model of outdoor bench designed for the Hôtel de Sully bridges the interior and exterior, the public and the private - merging the different elements of the installation into a single gesture.

Together, these works mark a pivotal evolution in Walsh's practice: a move toward placing his work fully within the landscape and architecture, where forms are no longer simply observed but physically inhabited and experienced in relation to light, weather and time.



JWS *Gestures* Yew Table & Chairs, JWS *Gestures* Cabinets. © Andrew Bradley and Norman Wilcox-Geissen



Enignum Forma Trinity in ash. The *Enignum Forma* series comprises small-scale sculptural works that translate the making of the monumental *Magnus* sculptures into a domestic scale. Courtesy of Joseph Walsh Studio.

About Joseph Walsh and Joseph Walsh Studio

Joseph Walsh Studio was founded by Joseph Walsh in 1999 and encompasses a design studio, workshop, gallery and archive on the south coast of Ireland. Art, craft, design and technical innovation merge in the exquisite and expressive pieces that the studio crafts, opening up new possibilities in material and form. His work reflects his research in groundbreaking experimental and artistic methods. From monumental sculptures to one-of-a-kind site-specific commissions and collectible design editions, every piece reveals an intuitive relationship with making, a sympathetic use of materials and an expressive engagement with form.

Joseph Walsh was born in 1979 in County Cork, where he established his own studio and workshop at age 20 and remains based today. Inspired by the free, uplifting and ever-changing grace that can be found in nature, Walsh has developed a creative process which captures the fluidity and immediacy of a sketch, and in which the final form is only defined through its making. From his early years of experimentation, Walsh began to break some of the traditional rules of making in order to create the bold and expressive forms for which he is known today, realised in materials including wood, marble, bronze and gold.

At Fartha, the studio has expanded into a laboratory of research and development around material technologies and sculptural possibilities, giving rise to monumental sculptures and site-specific installations. Perpetuating centuries-old vernacular techniques whilst inventing new methods for the treatment of wood, the studio has established itself as a centre for innovation and creativity in the world of making.

Joseph Walsh's achievements in design have been recognised by an honorary doctorate from University College Cork, a major commission for the National Gallery of Ireland, the installation of *Magnus Rinn* at Chion-in Temple in Kyoto, and the acquisition of works by major international collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Centre Pompidou, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum and the Rockbund Art Museum.



Joseph Walsh beside his monumental sculpture *Magnus RINN* during its assembly at Fonderia Artistica Mariani, Pietrasanta, Italy. Photo credit: Norman Wilcox-Geissen, courtesy of Joseph Walsh Studio.

About The Hôtel de Sully



Hôtel de Sully. Copyright Hôtel de Sully — Centre des monuments nationaux

Located in the heart of the Marais, just steps from the Place des Vosges, the Hôtel de Sully is the Centre des Monuments Nationaux and stands as one of the most remarkable private mansions of 17th-century Paris. Built from 1625 during the reign of Louis XIII and later acquired by Maximilien de Béthune, Duke of Sully, the residence reflects a refined transition between the ornamental richness of the Renaissance and the emerging classical rigor that would define the era of Louis XIV. Attributed to architect Jean Androuet du Cerceau, the hôtel is distinguished by its richly decorated façades and its elegant layout between courtyard and garden: a quintessential feature of Parisian aristocratic architecture. Its grounds include a striking orangerie framed by arcades, as well as a discreet passage leading directly to the Place des Vosges. Once a

gathering place for prominent literary figures such as Madame de Sévigné and Voltaire, today the Hôtel de Sully embodies both the historic grandeur and cultural vitality of Paris.

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