

DITESHEIM & MAFFEI FINE ART SA

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Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art Gallery is proud to inaugurate its autumn season with a double tribute exhibition dedicated to two iconic figures of Neuchâtel's art scene, both of whom passed away in 2022:

Raymond L'Épée and Marcel Mathys

This exhibition highlights the unique trajectories of these two artists and the lasting impact they left on the Swiss art scene, blending painting and sculpture in a shared pursuit of light and expression.

Born in 1942, **Raymond L'Épée** trained at the Maximilien de Meuron Academy in Neuchâtel from 1957 to 1962, where he was mentored by P. E. Bouvier and A. Ramseyer. After several formative stays in Provence and Italy, and a pivotal trip to New York in 1978, he refined his artistic practice, moving between rigorous abstraction and nearly photorealistic figuration. His work, imbued with poetry, explores light through delicate compositions—landscapes, still lifes, and frozen silhouettes—that evoke a suspended atmosphere, reminiscent at times of Matisse or Bonnard. A recipient of numerous national awards, including the Federal Fine Arts Grant in 1967, 1968, and 1970, as well as the Painting Prize from the Musée des Beaux-Arts in La Chaux-de-Fonds in 1968, Raymond L'Épée expertly combined technical precision with a singular sensitivity to light.

Born in Neuchâtel in 1933, **Marcel Mathys** is an essential figure in 20th-century Swiss sculpture. Trained in engraving, painting, and modeling at La Chaux-de-Fonds, he began his career as an engraver at Huguenin Frères before dedicating himself entirely to sculpture in 1959. His mastery of materials—plaster, cement, stone, marble, and bronze—enabled him to powerfully capture the tension between strength and fragility in the human form. A member of the *Réalités Nouvelles* group in Paris from 1972 onwards, he exhibited there for twenty-five years, solidifying his international reputation. Alongside his sculptural work, he developed a refined body of engraving and lithography, illustrating prominent authors and enriching the collections of prestigious institutions worldwide. Mathys' sculptures, infused with mythological references, feature raw surfaces and dynamic volumes that interact with light. In 2020, the Gallery installed one of his iconic works in the heart of Neuchâtel, offering a lasting tribute to his artistic legacy.

Raymond L'Épée and Marcel Mathys shared a relationship of mutual respect and profound artistic understanding. Longtime artists of the Gallery—since 1978 for L'Épée and 1983 for Mathys—their works have been regularly presented in our spaces, including recent solo exhibitions in 2018 for L'Épée and in 2021 for Mathys.

This double exhibition thus celebrates two complementary visions of artistic tradition: color exalted by light in L'Épée's work and the expressive power of volume in Mathys' sculptures.



Raymond L'Épée, *L'atelier d'un peintre*, 2013-2016, oil on canvas, 120 x 100 cm



Raymond L'Épée, *Singe et fleurs*, 1975, oil on canvas, 81 x 81 cm



Marcel Mathys, *Danseuse de Delphes*, 1965, stone of Saint-Triphon, 102 x 39 x 39 cm



Marcel Mathys, *Portique d'Ariane (étude)*, 1986, bronze, 40 cm

Biographical Highlights

Raymond L'Épée

- 1942** Born in Neuchâtel.
Trained as a composer and typographer, later practicing intermittently in this field until the early 1970s.
- 1957-62** Attended evening courses in painting and modeling with P. E. Bouvier and A. Ramseyer at the Maximilien de Meuron Academy in Neuchâtel.
- 1967-68-70** Awarded the Federal Fine Arts Grant.
- 1968** Winner of the Painting Prize, Musée des Beaux-Arts, La Chaux-de-Fonds.
- 1968-69** Spent two years in Bonnieux, Vaucluse.
- 1969** Recipient of the Kiefer-Habizel Grant, Lucerne.
- 1971** Earned a teaching diploma and began teaching part-time.
- 1972** Awarded the Pro Arte Foundation Grant.
Winner of the Bachelin Prize, Neuchâtel.
- 1978** Traveled to New York, experiencing the American painting scene.
- 1989** Spent a year in Italy, residing in Barberino Val d'Elsa (Tuscany), Lamezia Terme (Calabria), and traveling through Sicily.
- 1993** Invited for a month by the town of Monterchi (Tuscany) to participate in events commemorating the 500th anniversary of the death of Piero della Francesca.
- 2022** Passed away in September.

Marcel Mathys

- 1933** Born in Neuchâtel.
- 1949-53** Studied engraving at the La Chaux-de-Fonds School of Art, while attending painting courses with Georges Dessouslavy and working on modeling with Léon Perrin.
- 1954-57** Worked as an engraver at Huguenin Frères, a medal mint in Le Locle. During this time, he became independent and created various works related to medal production (coin dies) and the chasing of bronze ornaments for clocks.
- 1959** Began working in sculpture, first in plaster and cement, then two years later in stone, primarily marble, and eventually bronze.
- 1972** Became a member of *Réalités Nouvelles* in Paris, exhibiting regularly there for 25 years.
- 1987** The Neuchâtel Museum of Art and History hosted a major retrospective, celebrating his artistic journey.
- 1988** Received the Neuchâtel Institute Prize.
- 2022** Passed away on June 28 in Auvernier.

Exhibitions (Selection)

Raymond L'Épée

2025

Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel

2018

Ditesheim et Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel

2014

Hôtel La Prairie, Yverdon-les-Bains

2013

Ditesheim et Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel

2008

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

2005

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

2001

Galerie Numaga, Auvernier

1998

Galerie du Chêne, Lausanne

1997

Galerie Ringmauer, Morat

1996

San Sepolcro, musée civique

1995

Galerie Numaga, Auvernier

1993

Monterchi, as part of the 500th anniversary of the death of Piero della Francesca

1989

Galerie Paul Vallotton, Lausanne

1986

Galerie du Faubourg, Neuchâtel

Galerie du Cour Saint-Pierre, Geneva

Galerie Paul Vallotton, Lausanne

1982

Galerie du Faubourg, Neuchâtel

Galerie du Cour Saint-Pierre, Geneva

1978

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

1973

Galerie Numaga, Auvernier

1969

Galerie Numaga, Auvernier

Marcel Mathys

2025

Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel

2021

Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel

2018

Turin Congress Center, Italy

2016

Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel

2010

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

2005

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

Expo'au Milan, La Roche

Galerie Post-Scriptum, Belfaux

2004

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel (Group Exhibition)

Fondation du Château de Gruyères

Musée du Laténium, Neuchâtel (Group Exhibition)

2003

Fondation Marc Jurt, Vaumarcus

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Donation Jeunet, Neuchâtel

2002

Musée Jenisch, Journée Chappuis, Vevey

Galerie Isoz, Sierre

2001

Galerie Post-Scriptum, Belfaux

Bicentenaire de Chêne- Bougeries, Geneva

2000

Hôtel de Ville, Yverdon

1999

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

1998

Galerie l'Entracte, Lausanne

1997

Festival de sculpture, Pignans (FR) (with Arman, Beuys, Bury, César, Zadkine, Tinguely, Miotte)

1996

Galerie L'Entracte, Lausanne

Musée Léon Perrin, Château de Môtiers, Môtiers

1995

Galerie L'Entracte, Lausanne

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

1994

Salon des Réalités Nouvelles, Paris

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

Galerie La Ferme, Grand Lancy (with the St.-Prex Studio)

1990

Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

Fondation Moret, Martigny ((with the St.-Prex Studio)

1988

ArtBasel, Bâle, (Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel, and L'Entracte, Lausanne, with Pietro Sarto)

General Information

Venue	Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art 8, rue du Château CH- 2000 Neuchâtel
Exhibition Title	Hommage à Raymond L'Épée peintre de la lumière œuvres de 1975 à 2022 Mathys sculptures
Opening Reception	September 11, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Exhibition Duration	September 12 to October 25, 2025 Closed on September 27 (Harvest Festival)
Opening Hours	Tuesday to Friday: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Saturday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
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Images	For visual materials, please contact the gallery.