

# Hubert Duprat

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**PRESS  
RELEASE**



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Presented by the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, this is Hubert Duprat's first major retrospective in France. Drawing on various photographic and sculptural ensembles and the reactivation of site-specific works, the exhibition retraces the career of this French artist who was born in 1957 and for over thirty years has been honing his practice like a researcher – one, as he himself puts it, more gifted for the hunt than for the capture.

Here we have a summary of the lines of force of a body of work both open-ended and rhizomatic, a unifying of the monumental and the miniature, of purity of line and mannerist virtuosity. Sumptuous, demanding and complex, the Duprat oeuvre also draws inspiration from chance and the empirical, combining discovery of objects, remnants and texts in a testing-out of matter, technique and dexterity.

The artist is equally happy in the natural world or working with weird minerals (iron pyrites, calcite, ulexite, etc.), species that defy classification (amber, coral, etc.) and everyday industrial materials (polystyrene, concrete, paraffin, modelling clay, etc.) His repurposed processes come largely from the crafts – marquetry, goldsmithing, upholstery – but also from such vernacular domains as string art.

Duprat's creative quest focuses on material culture, on artefacts and specialised objects from fields as diverse as early wood-based industries, ancient ruins, and the religious and decorative makings of the 16th and 17th centuries. In revealing

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Hubert Duprat, *Larve aquatique de Trichoptère avec son étui*, 1980-2000

Or perles, saphirs, turquoises, corail, lapis lazuli, longueur moyenne 2,5 cm

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Hubert Duprat, *Tribulum*, 2012  
Mousse florale, éclats de silex, 100 x 70 x 18 cm

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