

## Jaume Plensa

### *Noir & Blanc*

20 May – 13 July 2022

Opening Friday 20 May  
From 11am to 8pm.

13 rue de Téhéran  
38 avenue Matignon  
75008 Paris



Jaume Plensa  
*Minna's World III*, 2021 (Marble),  
*Flora*, 2021 (Granite), *Martina's World II*, 2021 (Marble)  
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When Jaume Plensa is asked which are the artists who have most inspired him, he evokes musicians, playwrights, poets. The sentence he most often quotes « One thought fills immensity » (William Blake, *Proverbs of Hell*) is in his eyes, a definition of sculpture. It is as a sculptor that he has made his the four Parisian spaces of the Galerie Lelong & Co., under a title in French: **Noir & Blanc**. In the larger gallery situated rue de Téhéran, pure white marble portraits contrast with others in black granite. A sort of chess-game is being played here, one in which the different pieces of the two colours answer each other, creating an invisible architecture. Also evoking, for the artist, piano keys, where the black and the white keys, although distinct from one another, combine to create harmonious chords.

At the Avenue Matignon premises, facing one another, two portraits of young women have been carved out from earthen-hued alabaster blocks. The faces have been covered with white paint, evoking smoothness a thus starkly contrasting with the rough stone visible just behind. In the last room, a series of small dark bronze portraits are aligned one behind another. As often with Plensa, light plays a crucial role by adding a dramatic touch.

The **Noir & Blanc** title also evokes the basic contrast of a drawing, and the artist has chosen a series of inks on Japanese paper for the small exhibition room known as the “salon”. In the bookshop, the gallery space allotted to prints, Plensa presents a set of recent engravings and digital impressions.

Jaume Plensa, born in Barcelona in 1955, has inaugurated, along these last months, some outstanding sculptures in the public space of London (« We » The Shard/London Bridge station) as well as facing Manhattan (« Water's Soul » Newport, New Jersey, U.S.A). For the new edifice of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park at Grand Rapids (USA), he has created four gigantic low reliefs in white marble spanning a 6-meter height and total length of 108 meters.

Several exhibitions are scheduled in Europe in 2022: at Modern Art Museum of Céret (March 5th – June 6<sup>th</sup>), at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire (April 1<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>), at Picasso Museum, in Antibes (June 10th – September 25th),

at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, U.K. (June 10th – October 30<sup>th</sup>), at Fundación Bancaja, Valencia, Spain (end 2022).

A monograph of Jaume Plensa's drawings is being prepared and will be published by Skira in June 2022.

A collection of four texts by Catherine Millet on Jaume Plensa, *Le Silence du scribe* (The silence of the scribe) will be published by Galerie Lelong & Co. in May 2022.



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During the Paris Gallery Weekend, the gallery will be open from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, from 11am to 7pm and the Sunday 22<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 7pm.

## PRESS AND MEDIA RELATIONS

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