

S/BEAUBOURG GALLERY

PRESS
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June 19 - July 19, 2025

MONUMENTAL SCRIVE

ABSTRACT SCULPTURES

Opening
June 19 | 6pm

EXHIBITION-EVENT PHILIPPE SCRIVE : MONUMENTAL SCRIVE - ABSTRACT SCULPTURES

Presented by Art Engagement Consulting at the new S/Beaubourg Gallery

DATES : June 19 - July 19, 2025

OPENING : June 19 from 6:00 pm

PRIVATE VIEWINGS : starting June 17, private viewings available by reservation only

LOCATION : GALERIE S/BEAUBOURG

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Art Engagement Consulting pursues its trilogy dedicated to major figures of contemporary creation with *Monumental Scrive – Abstract Sculptures*, which opens the summer season at the new S/Beaubourg Gallery. Following Antoni Taulé and Bedri Baykam, this third exhibition pays tribute to Philippe Scrive, Franco-Canadian, born in 1927, long celebrated as one of France's greatest sculptors. On the eve of his 98th birthday, Scrive continues — with undiminished strength — an unbroken dialogue with matter. Wood, stone, marble, slate, bronze: under his hands, these time-laden materials become vessels of an inner breath, of a sacred energy that is both sensual and voluptuous. Inspired by the vast Canadian landscapes, the natural world around him, and the ancestral aesthetics of Indigenous totems, his work gives rise to enigmatic forms, hovering between abstraction and anthropomorphism, that seem to speak directly to our unconscious — reminding us of the beauty of Mother Earth.

But the true monument is Scrive himself: through his unwavering commitment, a career spanning over seventy years, and his unquenchable passion for action in art. Scrive sculpts with his hands, his gaze, his entire body — in a direct and organic communion with the material, whose fractures, tensions, and impulses he reveals. Conceived as a sensory experience, the exhibition brings together around twenty small - and medium-scale sculptures in an intimate and emotionally resonant presentation. More than a retrospective, the Parisian event pays homage to form as mysterious presence, to matter as living memory — each work vibrating in an aesthetic encounter with the viewer. This Parisian phase precedes a major event: a permanent installation by the artist, titled *Le Carré Zen*, will be inaugurated at the end of 2025 – early 2026 in the park of the *Sainte-Barbe* Castle Library in *Fontenay-aux-Roses*, the town where the artist has lived and worked since 1960.

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THE ARTIST - PHILIPPE SCRIVE

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1927 in Ville-Marie, Québec, Philippe Scrive began his artistic training in Québec City before entering the *École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts* in Paris, where he settled permanently in 1952. Recognized internationally, his monumental work is deeply embedded in the public realm, with over forty large-scale sculptures realized across the globe, often conceived and executed *in situ*, in close dialogue with their environment.

Recipient of major accolades — including the Del Duca Prize from the *Académie des Beaux-Arts*, the *Prix des Vikings*, and the *Prix de la Jeune Sculpture* — Scrive has developed a sculptural language that is both archaic and contemporary, rooted in the landscapes of his Canadian childhood: structural verticality, raw materials, and a totemic memory inspired by Indigenous culture. Engaging stone, marble, wood, or lauze in a sensitive and dialectical relationship with matter, he brings forth anthropomorphic forms oscillating between ritual abstraction and humanoid or animal figuration. Gesture, articulation, and symbolic attributes form the expressive syntax of a sculptural grammar at once organic and allusive.

His mastery of interlocking techniques confers a modular, nomadic, and evolving structure on his works — designed for assembly, disassembly, and site-specific adaptation. Drawing on a Dadaist lineage, he incorporates heterogeneous materials — metal, glass, plastic — which intensify the semantic surface of his sculptures and enrich their formal complexity. Informed by formative encounters with Brancusi, Le Corbusier, Richard Neutra, and Frank Lloyd Wright, Scrive envisions sculpture as a symbolic architecture of the living: a form inhabited, organically embedded in the social and urban fabric. The monumental portal he erected in front of the *Musée d'art contemporain* in Dunkirk remains one of the most emblematic expressions of his vision.



EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

"Taming the Unknown"

The works of sculptor Philippe Scrive have spread to the four corners of the globe, powerfully integrating into the urban fabric they transform through their presence. Some reach over ten meters in height and length, imposing their physical presence on the world. Yet beyond their scale, it is an inner vibration—almost immaterial—that runs through them.

Wood, stone, brick, sandstone, granite, slate, lava, aluminum, alabaster, or marble—each of these materials, heavy with history and memory, becomes in his hands a medium of felt energy, of an invisible breath. Poetic, almost magical, Scrive's work is animated by a tension between density and transparency, between silence and resonance.

His sculpted forms—sometimes abstract, sometimes totemic or anthropomorphic—map out a territory where matter seems endowed with intention, charged with symbolic language. These structures assert their presence in space like inner figures, emerging from a

world both ancient and still to come. But the true monument is Scrive himself. Nearly 98 years old, born in 1927 in *Ville-Marie*, Québec, and based in *Fontenay-aux-Roses* since 1960, he continues to sculpt with rare intensity despite several accidents and a major lung operation. His gesture is total: he sculpts with his eyes, his hands, his heart.

In deep communion with matter, he embraces its constraints, its flaws, its resonances. Wood and slate in particular have shaped his formal vocabulary, giving rise to strange assemblages into which metal, glass, or plastic are sometimes inserted—giving birth to enigmatic, *quasi*-human figures, halfway between object and character.

The exhibition *Monumental Scrive: Abstract Sculptures*, presented by Art Engagement Consulting, pays tribute to this creative force through a focused selection of small-scale works. This distinctive curatorial approach aims to highlight, within the

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gallery's intimate setting, the expressive range of materials Scrive elevates — along with his singular sensitivity to substance and the unique aura of each sculpture. Around

twenty pieces will punctuate the space, like so many poetic presences suspended between form and story.



ABOUT S/BEAUBOURG GALLERY & ART ENGAGEMENT CONSULTING

Under the direction of art historian and founder of *Art Engagement Consulting*, Micaela Neveu, the new S/Beaubourg Gallery —located just steps from the Centre Pompidou—has, since its reopening in mid-March 2025, been reimagined as a space for reflection, experimentation, and critical thought. More than a venue dedicated to aesthetics, the gallery has become a true laboratory, where art questions, deconstructs, and redefines our relationship to the world by challenging artistic and cultural conventions.

Its inauguration on March 21, 2025, was marked by the exhibition *Entropie* by Antoni Taulé, praised by both critics and the public for its powerful spatial conception and its resonance with contemporary concerns. This foundational project launches a new program focused on “performative curating,” developed by *Art Mouvance – Société pour l’Art*, represented by Patrik Gunnteg, where the exhibition itself becomes an act of thought,

exploring the boundaries between art, culture, and critical discourse.

In this spirit, a partnership with *Art Mouvance* has given rise to the Club Dumas, a monthly literary and artistic circle. Each meeting will introduce a theme in dialogue with the current exhibitions, creating a space of dialogue among writers, artists, thinkers, and audiences around the resonances between text, image, and society. The Club Dumas embodies the gallery’s ambition to become a vibrant space of intellectual engagement, where art nourishes both thought and vision.

Beginning in September 2025, S/Beaubourg Gallery will launch a new series of projects devoted to the intersection of art, artificial intelligence, and emerging forms of creativity. These initiatives reflect an ongoing exploration of the ways in which new technologies can function as nuanced, critical, or poetic extensions of contemporary artistic practice.