

sitting pretty

SELF-TAUGHT FRENCH furniture designer Hubert Le Gall is known for his witty approach to creating functional, yet decorative, pieces.

Working out of his Paris studio in Montmartre, Le Gall uses various materials, such as bronze, brass, exotic woods, gold leaf and velvet, to create his art, which also happens to double as furniture.

Le Gall is interested in what he calls “total art,” a vision that means his furniture creations are also sculptures—an aesthetic similar to that of the Arts and Crafts movement in Britain. He has been known to describe his work as “in-between objects,” meaning in between form and sculpture.

Born in Lyon in 1961, Le Gall was always interested in art and thought about becoming an architect. However, his parents discouraged him from that line of work, and he studied finance instead. But he never really took to the business world; soon after he finished his studies, Le Gall moved to Paris and began his life as an artist. His work references iconic Pop artists like Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, as well as Surrealist artists such as Salvador Dalí.

Le Gall began his career painting portraits, slowly gravitating toward furniture making. In the late 1990s he partnered with a master carpenter and started crafting the furniture for which he has become famous.

With a career spanning 25 years, he is a well-known fixture on the international design scene. In addition to his work with decorative objects, he has collaborated with design houses, such as Dior, and works as a scenographer and exhibition consultant for museums around the world, including the Musée Jacquemart-André and the Musée d’Orsay.

The wood and wool bouclette Maxou Chair in yellow and green, in an edition of 30, is a prime example of Le Gall’s functional art. The signed and numbered piece showcases Le Gall’s humorous, yet luxurious and functional, take on a traditional object. The Maxou Chair can be viewed at the Twenty First Gallery, New York City.

