



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Provence

MARC NEWSON

15 March - 21 June 2026
Auditorium Oscar Niemeyer



Château La Coste and Gagosian are pleased to present an exhibition by internationally acclaimed Australian designer Marc Newson, opening on 15 March 2026 in the Oscar Niemeyer Auditorium.

Spanning four decades of Newson's groundbreaking practice, the exhibition brings together fourteen key works installed both indoors and outdoors. Together, they offer visitors a rare opportunity to encounter iconic designs that have shaped the international discourse on contemporary design and profoundly influenced the objects of everyday life.

Highlights include the legendary *Lockheed Lounge*, presented in dialogue with Oscar Niemeyer's architecture, as well as *Electra*, a monumental six-metre-high outdoor sculpture unveiled here for the first time.

Working across disciplines, Newson has remained at the forefront of contemporary design through his renowned innovative exploration of form and medium. Reenvisioning the possibilities of classical materials via contemporary fabrication techniques, Newson creates iconic designs that resonate with the past and present.

Since his early days as an art student making jewelry through silversmithing, Newson has been driven by a fascination with craftsmanship and technical ambition. The works here are distinguished not only by their design, but by the extraordinary complexity of their production. Newson has devoted years to certain projects, travelling the world to research specialized techniques and push them beyond their traditional limits.

Several chairs and chaise longues, for example, feature intricate spotted and floral patterns realised in cloisonné enamel—an ancient decorative method rarely attempted at such scale. To reinvigorate this centuries-old tradition, Newson established a dedicated workshop and team in China. Elsewhere, precious marble and Azul Macaubas stone are carved from a single block into fluid, almost plastic forms that appear to defy the material's inherent weight and rigidity. Even the artisanal surfboard is revisited through advanced high-tech engineering to confront the challenge of giant waves.

Artist's Statement

“Exhibitions often afford the opportunity to reflect—to reconsider the evolution of past practice through the lens of the present. It remains a privilege to be given such a platform: a space, quite literally, to collate, connect and mediate. This new exhibition at Château La Coste—in collaboration with the Gagosian, with additional contributions from Gallery Kreo and private collectors—showcases a cross-section of celebrated works over the past four decades. Embedded in the beauty of the landscape, Oscar Niemeyer's Pavilion provides the immediate setting: an elegantly fluid, luminous space to house a specially curated collection of design pieces, the diversity of which underlines my longstanding preoccupation with craft, processes, experimentation and scale. Celebrating aesthetic and material diversity, this exhibition underscores the core motivations of my practice: one which remains non-linear (in its approach to problem solving) and attempts to defy cultural expectation. As the exhibition reveals, I remain inspired by processes: not just the beauty and profound satisfaction with outcome, but also the deeply gratifying stages in between: the complex narrative imbued in every piece. Indeed, travelling and living in many countries has influenced my perception of the world as a single place: as connected, without boundaries. My work continues to reflect this philosophy—that design is not geographically determined but rather speaks across cultures.

As the range of pieces indicate, the material employed in each work remains inherent to the solution, to the realisation of the final piece. In some cases, however, such as my works in pure marble, the material is the complete work; its very process evolves into form.

As many pieces in this exhibition indicate, I have long been interested in what is absent as well as what is present; how form is created by what is not there as much as what is. An expression of absence, therefore, runs through much of my work from the very beginning. I remain interested in the spaces you don't see, and how they inform your perception of an object or product. It's also another way to push the limits of materials; to shift how they are seen over time.

As well as bringing together previously exhibited work, I'm also delighted to be sharing an early, large-scale sculpture, with this occasion marking its first public appearance. Commanding the entrance driveway as one enters the site, Electra—conceived over three decades ago—provides an apt and evocative prelude to the diverse and joyful exhibition ahead.

It's an absolute pleasure and honour to be a part of this wonderful collaboration: a fitting moment, and fitting space, to celebrate outcomes born of dialogues across cultural, material and spatial boundaries. Despite the aesthetically divergent pieces on display, one can, I believe, discern a legibility—a way to read, and connect, this broad and enlivening body of work.”

—Marc Newson

About Marc Newson

Born in Sydney in 1963, Newson graduated from Sydney College of the Arts in 1986. Receiving a grant from the Australian Crafts Council, he staged his first solo exhibition, *Seating for Six*, at Roslyn Oxley9 in Sydney, when he was just twenty-three. By the age of twenty-five, he had produced the hand-built Lockheed Lounge, a chaise lounge named after its riveted aluminum panels' resemblance to the aircraft engineered by Lockheed Martin. After living and working in Sydney, Tokyo, and Paris, he relocated to London, where his company, Marc Newson Limited, has been based since 1997. Newson has also concomitantly held senior positions at clients' companies: he was creative director of Qantas Airways from 2005 to 2015, and he has been a designer for special projects at Apple since 2014. In 2019, Marc and Sir Jonathan Ive founded the creative collective LoveFrom.

About Château La Coste

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces across the 500-acre site.

Each year artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the unique beauty of this Provençal landscape, with its famed cypresses, stone pines, olive trees and ancient oaks. They are given the freedom to create a site-specific work in an area of the site that inspires them, so Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed.

CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Open everyday

10am - 7pm

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