



The facade of Galerie Negropontes's new location.

Photo: Francis Anand

Opening

Does a Gallery Relocation Signal That This Neighborhood Is the Official Parisian Design Hotspot?

AD PRO visits the new Galerie Negropontes

By Gay Gassmann

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From a modest space on the Left Bank to over 2,000 square feet across the Seine, [Galerie Negropontes](#) is making a major move this month—and leaving more room to grow.

The idea to establish a gallery was initially hatched by Sophie Negropontes and Hervé Langlais—two friends whose respective specialties in galleries and interior designer naturally complement one another. This was several years ago—a drop in the bucket for gallery founder and artistic director, who have known each other for a quarter century. Their gallery business, which quickly gained an excellent reputation thanks to their mutual appreciation for French decorative arts and high-caliber materials, has now been in operation for seven years. But unlike its previous Rue de Verneuil confines, this premises (which opens today), is interesting not only for the works it aims to promote and sell, but also for its location in what is fast becoming a new Mecca for French art and design. Just a few blocks from the [Louvre](#), [Musée des Arts Décoratifs](#), and the much-anticipated [Tadao Ando](#)-designed Pinault Foundation, it seems as if the Right Bank is once again the coolest design spot in town.



The new gallery's inaugural exhibition is titled "Seven Years of Reflection." It retraces the history of the gallery and each collection it has designed.

Photos: Francis Amiard

As is true however with any creative microcosm, it's the substance, specific details, and individuals of this *quartier* that set it apart. Negropontes has an innate understanding of this fact, which stems from her artistic background. (Her father was the photographer Dan Grigorescu, who is known for his images of the work of [Constantin Brancusi](#).) "I grew up in the art world with artists, photographers, and art critics," Negropontes shares with AD PRO.

Fittingly, on its most basic level, Galerie Negropontes's new Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau location seeks most directly to serve the individuals whom it represents. "The idea is to show more artists and designers. Now that we have this additional space, we can [stage] solo shows and display our signature furniture collections," Langlais explains to AD PRO, emphasizing how the gallery's specialty lies in contemporary as opposed to vintage creations. Langlais, who is also an experienced architect, is tasked with spearheading these aforementioned collections. He designs one such line per year, which is comprised of unique pieces, limited series, and custom orders. "With Hervé, we work within a Brancusian spirit," Negropontes notes. "[His collections are] simplified and researched, and [they possess] a strong attention to detail. Everything is an expression of the decorative arts. . . art sculptures, lights, ceramics, and carved wood."



As part of the inaugural exhibition, seven murals, one from each collection, were paired with seven pieces of designer furniture. "You are always seeing murals," says Hervé Langlais explains.

Photos: Francis Amiard

Thanks to the new space, the gallery will also now have room to host six to eight exhibitions a year, in addition to setting up booths at fairs such as [PAD London](#) and [Salon Art and Design](#) in New York. Striking a summarizing note, Negropontes reflects, "We had long been looking for a larger space to accommodate all of our artists. The former space was much smaller, and then I fell in love with this one." She then adds, "It is exactly what we wanted. This is a dynamic area and in the heart of Paris."



Sophie Negropontes, pictured in the new Galerie Negropontes.

Photo: Francis Amiard

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