

René Julien

SCULPTOR AND PAINTER

1937, *Hollogne-aux-Pierres (Belgium)* – 2016, *Cavaillon (France)*

One of the major figures of Belgian figurative sculpture. Editions of 8 original casts and 4 artist's proofs, in bronze. The moulds no longer exist: no further casting is possible.

CAREER AND COMMISSIONS

Unless otherwise stated, all locations are in Belgium.

1937	Born in Hollogne-aux-Pierres, near Liège
1951-1957	Studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Liège
Late 1950s	Moves to Brussels: stained glass, frescoes and decorative panels
1960-1965	Theatre sets; appointed professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, Liège
1969	Director of the Academy of Fine Arts of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, Brussels
1976-1980	First sculpted jewellery and cutlery; short film "René Julien, his life, his work" by R. Lombaert
1977	Monumental three-metre weathervane sculpture for the Butgenbach sports and nautical centre; "Egg of the 150 years", a bronze egg containing a pendant engraved with the map of Belgium
1983	Settles in the Vaucluse, where sculpture becomes his main practice
1985-1990	Sculpture for the Amnesty International room of the Parliament, Brussels; original lithograph for the Belgian Olympic equestrian team and a medal for international show jumping; appointed inspector at the Fine Arts Commission of the French Community
1991-1995	Group of sculptures for the Peers press group, Asse; "L'Envol de la Wallonie", 5 metres, for the Walloon Government; "Le Saute-mouton", Hôtel des Ponts et Chaussées, Liège
1996-1997	"Les Égéries", a group of eight sculptures, in front of the European Communities building, Brussels; "Valérie au cerceau", Château de La Hulpe
1998	"Les Navetteuses", two large sculptures, U.S.A. hall, Brussels International Airport; "Le Génie des Galeries", for the 150th anniversary of the Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert
2011-2012	Publication of the book on his sculpted work, "Around a waking dream"
2016	Dies in Cavaillon, France
2020	A set of "Les Égéries" acquired by Huawei for its Shenzhen campus, China

PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

1960-1965	Godecharle Prize; Contact Prize; Ransy-Putzeys Prize; Government Large Vermeil Medal; Watteau Prize; Literary Prize for the Resistance; Marie Prize; Lebon Prize; Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France
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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2023-2026	Regularly presented by Art Thema: Fine Art Fair Wavre in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026; Fine Art Fair Leuven in 2025
2021	Monumental exhibition in Ramatuelle, France: eighteen sculptures across three sites, organised by Art Thema; "Together" exhibition, Brussels
2016	Major retrospective (paintings, sculptures, jewellery), Art Thema Gallery, Brussels

2011-2012	Cercle International, Château Sainte-Anne, salons and gardens, Brussels; park of the Château de Bousval, Genappe; contemporary art fairs and permanent presence in several European galleries
2009-2010	Monumental sculptures, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Brussels
2008	Life-size sculptures, Keukenhof estate, Netherlands; permanent exhibitions in Brussels, The Hague, Lyon, Paris, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence and Beaune
2006-2007	Cafmeyer gallery, Knokke-le-Zoute, and "One Man Show" on the seafront; Art Thema Gallery, Brussels; Campredon Museum, Maison René Char, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France

MONUMENTAL WORKS

Les Égéries	Group of eight sculptures, up to 160 cm — European Commission and Parliament, Brussels; Huawei, Shenzhen campus, China
Dream's Breath	125 × 180 × 75 cm — Belgian Federal Government, Egmont Palace, Brussels
Coming Back	200 × 160 × 110 cm — City of London, Victoria Place, UK
L'Envol de la Wallonie	Height 500 cm — City of Liège
The Wing	Height 450 cm — Private castle, South of France
Girl with Hoop	Height 150 cm — Solvay, Château de La Hulpe
Girls Playing	Height 200 cm — AXA, Brussels

Art Thema accompanied René Julien's work for nearly thirty years.

Catherine Meulemans · catherine@artthema.com · +33 6 37 32 08 33 · www.artthema.com