

Galerie MINIMASTERPIECE

PRESS RELEASE

BOLOS BY CLAUDE WESEL

Soloshow from February 7 to March 22, 2025
Opening on Thursday February 6 - 6 to 8 PM
in presence of Fabienne Wesel, his daughter



For more than 50 years, **Claude Wesel** was one of the leaders of contemporary jewelry in Belgium. He is at the origin of an exceptional production, both for the beauty of the pieces produced and for their inventiveness.

An accomplished goldsmith, **Claude Wesel** is as much a sculptor as he is a jeweler. His expertise as a craftsman knows no limits. From lost wax to sculpture, from enamelling to stone setting, from precious wood to the delicate use of colored acrylic, Wesel discovers, tests, invents a biomechanical language where technique and organic dialogue.

Galerie MiniMasterpiece has chosen to highlight a set never before seen in France of 15 BOLOS by **Claude Wesel** in Sterling silver and 18k yellow gold.

From 1995 and until his death in 2014, **Wesel** undertook to revisit the famous bolo-tie from the American southwest worn by Native Americans and then the cowboys of Arizona. With the particularity of being a unisex piece of jewelry and made up of a leather or cotton lace, each one ends with a metal tip, the bolo is associated with a more or less sophisticated medallion-shaped clasp.





Claude Wesel

Bolo 7074 in 18k yellow gold

2007

edition of 25

© MiniMasterpiece



Claude Wesel

Bolo 7061 in Sterling silver and diamond

2007

edition of 25

© MiniMasterpiece

Press contact : NADIA BANIAN

nadia.banian@gmail.com

Tel : +33 (0)6 34 53 65 95

GENESIS OF BOLO-TIE BY CLAUDE WESEL by Fabienne Wesel

The bolo-tie was invented in the 1930s by Native American tribal silversmiths from Arizona and New Mexico. The Zuni, Hopi and Navajo tribes.

Native American bolo-ties were made of solid silver and featured sacred tribal symbols and markings.

Gradually, cowboys began to wear them. The bolo was an alternative to the tie, considered too formal for the more relaxed lifestyle of the Western States. It was Victor Cedarstaff, in Arizona, who officially filed a patent for his "Slide for a Necktie" in May 1954.

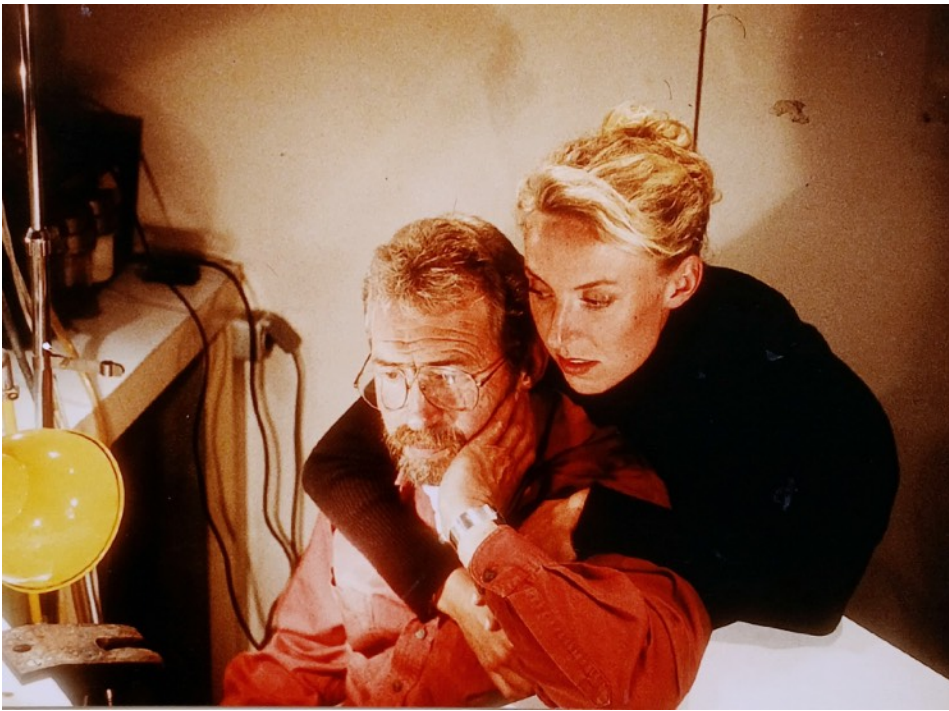
My father Claude Wesel created his first bolo-tie in 1995. He didn't like classic ties and therefore revisited the famous Native American bolo-tie for him.

From 1995 until 2014, he occasionally created unique bolos.

In 2007, we organized an exhibition in our Waterloo gallery dedicated to his bolo-ties from which the models presented today in limited and numbered editions of 25 come.



Claude Wesel
Bolo 7123 in Sterling silver
2007
edition of 25
© MiniMasterpiece



**Claude Wesel
with his daughter
Fabienne**

© B. François
Bruxelles 1996

Claude Wesel was born on February 5, 1942 in Brussels.

After training at the Maredsous School of Crafts where he was introduced to metal work, then at La Cambre where he chose to focus on graphics and advertising, he quickly forged a strong, distinctive personality in an area still little open to modernity.

In 1969, he participated in the international exhibition "Art and Jewelry" within the group of artists named "Atelier Demaret" founded by André Lamy and Fernand Demaret. It is particularly within this workshop that he asserts his style. Using traditional noble materials, gold and precious stones, he will also include contemporary materials unusual in jewelry in his rings, pendants and necklaces. Rubber and transparent or colored plexiglass will be part of this. These associations as well as the technological contribution close to a mechanical, technical and, on the contrary, biological vision, will make him one of the most unique figures in the field.

Following the burglary of the gallery he had opened with his daughter Fabienne in Waterloo, this already discreet man withdrew even further from the world. On the other hand, his works, some of which have been acquired by renowned museums both in Belgium (Diamond Museum in Antwerp), in Germany (Schmuckmuseum in Pforzheim) and in the United States (Museum of Fine Arts in Houston), are regularly exhibited in reference places.

He died on December 29, 2014 in Brussels.



Galerie MiniMasterpiece, created in the Spring of 2012 by Esther de Beaucé, is the first Parisian gallery exclusively dedicated to the edition and sale of jewellery by renown contemporary visual artists and designers. Like a very private collection that one wears and carries along, artists jewellery first strike by the love, the friendship and the challenge that have preceeded their existence. These miniature works of art tell us about another History of Art, that of intimacy and passion. For collectors, choosing an artist or a designer jewel, wearing it around the neck, the wrist or the finger, is a statement. For the artists it is both a pastime and a challenge, that is to achieve the successfull confrontation of their monumental work to the scale of the body.

Those who have so far worked directly with the gallery include the artists (selection) : Joana **Vasconcelos**, Lee Ufan, Julio **Le Parc**, Jean-Luc **Moulène**, Wang **Keping**, François **Morellet**, Katinka **Bock**, Barthélémy **Toguo**, Françoise **Pétrovitch**, Véra **Molnar**, Carlos **Cruz-Diez**, Yann **Delacour**, Elodie **Seguin**, Philippe **Ramette**, Phillip **King**, Pablo **Reinoso**, Sophia **Vari**, Andres **Serrano**, Faust **Cardinali**, Jacqueline **de Jong** and designers Christian **Ghion**, Pierre **Charpin**, Constance **Guisset**, Pierre **Gonalons**, Nestor **Perkal**, David **Dubois**, François **Azambourg**, **A+A Cooren**, Frédéric **Ruyant**, Walid **Akkad**, Frédérique **Mattei** and Cédric **Ragot**.

Galerie MiniMasterpiece - 16 rue des Saints Pères - Paris 7 - France
www.galerieminimasterpiece.com