

Since the 1990s Thierry Barbier-Mueller has developed a fascination for the creativity, freshness, and formidable spontaneity of designers such as Ron Arad, Tom Dixon, or André Dubreuil. These creators moved away from the fashion trends that are sometimes seen in the plastic arts to focus on unique, handcrafted pieces. The authenticity and uniqueness of these pieces appealed to Thierry Barbier-Mueller. He then bought his first chair, an act which marked the beginning of a passion that would never leave him. His acquisitions grew spontaneously as he discovered and encountered creators, to the point of becoming a fully-fledged collection of more than 650 chairs from the 1960s to the present day.

Consisting of about two-thirds unique pieces, prototypes, or works from small, limited editions, the collection reflects this interest in atypical objects, outside the usual niches of industrial design. It is above all the object itself that fascinates him, its uniqueness, its plasticity, the humour it evokes, or its materiality. Far from the idea of assembling a scientific and exhaustive corpus on the contemporary history of the chair, Barbier-Mueller is interested in everything that emerges as unusual and new in this field. This collection brings together the work of both internationally renowned designers and little-known young designers of all nationalities. These unusual objects illustrate a type of conceptual and experimental production in terms of form and material, on the borders of art and sculpture.



Portrait of Thierry Barbier-Mueller
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