

DEMISCH DANANT

Maria Pergay - Chronology

October 28, 1930

Born Maria Alexandrovna Kachnitskaya to Lise Pavlovna and Aleksandr Petrovich in Chisinau, Moldavia.

1937

Immigrates to Paris with her mother.

1947-49

Studies costume and set design at the Institut des Hautes Études Cinématographiques (IDHEC), Paris. Frequents Montparnasse art studio Académie de la Grande Chaumière.

1954 Designs objects for display in the windows of Paris luxury-goods boutiques including Torrente, Claude Tabet, L'Art du Cuir, Peau de Porc, and Dürer.

1957 Exhibits prototypes of silver collection at Salon Bijorhca, a professional fair for jewelry and silver artisans in Paris. Meets head buyer for Hermès, who includes several of these objects in the company's catalogue. Begins accepting commissions for corporate gifts (cadeaux d'entreprise) in silver.

Clients include Helena Rubenstein, Elizabeth Arden, Hermès, Henri à la Pensée, Christian Dior, Dona Carlotta, Roger et Gallet, Givenchy, and Maison Jansen.

1960

Opens shop at 2 Place des Vosges, Paris. (See p. TK.) Takes special orders from Christian Dior, Dona Carlotta, Henry à la Pensée, Maison Jansen, and Jacques Heim for objects in silver. Sells silver objects to private individuals. Hired by Paris decorating firm Maison Jansen; decorates the master baths of Habib Bourguiba, president of Tunisia, and his wife, in their palace in Carthage, Tunisia.

1962

Exhibits silver objects at the Salon des Antiquaires at the Grand Palais, Paris.

1967

Approached by Ugine-Gueugnon, France's leading stainless-steel producer, to employ steel in her designs.

1967-68 Designs first collection of stainless-steel furniture, including the Ring Chair and Flying Carpet Daybed Watershed exhibition of stainless-steel furniture collection at Galerie Maison et Jardin, Paris. Couturier Pierre Cardin acquires the entire collection.

1969-74

Accepts private commissions ranging from redecorating interiors to designing unique pieces of furniture. Clients include Daniel and Marina Varenne, Eric Beyersdorf, Robert Léviton, Jeanne Augier, Philippe Vendeuvre, and Jean-Pierre Lehmann. Maison Jansen offers Pergay's designs in its Paris showroom.

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1970

Exhibits stainless-steel collection in two New York locations: Galerie Air France and the showroom of furniture designer and distributor Harvey Propper, who represents her work in the U.S. and Caribbean. Hired by Maison Jansen; designs the tent bedroom of Shahbanu Farah Pahlavi, wife of the Shah of Iran, for the 2,500th anniversary of the Iranian monarchy. Creates Design Steel with Marina Varenne.

1972

Begins relationship with Haute de Ville gallery, Brussels. Meets new clients.

1974

Ends relationship with Design Steel. Continues designing, accepting commissions, and selling her designs through her shop and various showrooms.

1977

Designs Sofa Tortue and Table Amonite for Pierre Cardin. Sells her shop on Place des Vosges to her longtime atelier, Marsat, which now acts as her distributor.

1977

Relocates to Saudi Arabia. Designs four villas for the Saudi royal family. Accepts other commissions for the Saudi royal family and other Middle Eastern clients. Remains in the Middle East through 1985.

1991-92

Designs sets for American soap opera Riviera, Paris.

1992-1993

Accepts commissions in Amman, Jordan.

1993-98

Designs several residences and a restaurant in Moscow.

2000-03

Relocates to Essaouira, Morocco. Designs and operates Dar Liouba, a guesthouse.

2004

Designs and begins production on a new collection of furniture and architectural elements.

2006

Exhibits new collection at the Demisch Danant and Lehmann Maupin galleries, New York.

2006-2010

Exhibits in Paris, London, Seoul, and Miami. Accepts new commissions.

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2011

Maria Pergay: Complete Works 1957-2010 authored by Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant, released by Damiani

2012

Exhibits retrospective at Place des Vosges, Paris organized by galleries Demisch Danant, New York and JGM, Paris. Named Chevalier of the Order of Art and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture.

2013

Secret Garden at Demisch Danant, New York. New work in bronze and copper

2016

Wonder Room at Demisch Danant, New York. A collection of 5 new works.

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