LAURENCE JENKELL



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Jenkell

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Laurence JENK
+33 6 47 58 49 74
me@laurencejenk.com
www.laurencejenk.com
JENK

Biography

Laurence Jenkell, also known as JENK, is a French contemporary sculptor and painter, and a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. She is world-renowned for her iconic candy-shaped sculptures.

Born in Bourges (France) in 1965, this Pop artist created a distinctive body of sculptural work in the 1990s, based on twisting materials.

Following extensive research and experimentation, she perfected this technique and created the Candy (Bonbon) sculpture, which became her artistic signature. Her colourful sculptures are created in various sizes and materials.

Exhibited in major galleries, museums, and private, public, and institutional collections in more than 50 countries, her works question collective memory and childhood.

According to the Artprice 2020 report, she is ranked No. 430 among the top 1,000 best-selling international contemporary artists of the last 20 years.



Artistic Approach

Laurence Jenkell has always loved sweets! Having been deprived of sweets in her youth, she developed an obsession with this symbol of childhood and sweetness.

It was while revisiting her childhood that, more than 20 years ago, she had the idea to elevate sweets to the status of true works of art.

Through trial and error, and with great perseverance and passion, the artist succeeded in mastering the material to create her Candy sculpture, a project that had obsessed her for so many years. The candy was reinterpreted as a universal language that takes us back to our own childhood.

Although candy remains at the heart of her artistic identity, Laurence Jenkell expands her sculptural repertoire through collections such as **ADN, Robot, Butterfly** and **Buildart,** in which the iconic twisting gesture is constantly reinvented.

Driven by constant research and great freedom, the artist explores new variations that gradually enrich her vocabulary of forms and materials.

In 2015, **Ice Candy** explored the transparency of materials. In 2017, **Wrapping Twist** marked a new stage with pieces reminiscent of crumpled sweet wrappers.

Beyond aesthetics, the twisting gesture also becomes an expressive language, evident throughout her **Bitter Sweet** collection, which addresses environmental, societal, and animal rights issues.

In 2022, **Monacandy** stood out with its airier forms. Since then, even more daring pieces have emerged, including **Fly Candy** and **Crazy Candy.**



Artistic Walk



Laurence Jenkell had the idea of organizing an art walk called Candy Nations in 2011. It was based on her works during the G20 Summit in Cannes.

The guiding principle of her approach is to make art accessible to all by inviting everyone to discover the artist's world through an urban walking tour. Over a hundred Wrapping Candy Flag sculptures in the colors of the participating countries were installed on the Croisette and at the Palais des Festivals.

This initiative to bring sculpture into public spaces gained an international scope in New York in 2019, where an art walk featuring Wrapping Candy Flag pieces extended from the World Trade Center to Oculus Plaza and on to JFK International Airport.

Other cities have also hosted Laurence Jenkell's artistic walk, including Paris, Calais, Chambéry and Valencia in Spain.

In 2022, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat on the French Riviera hosted the CAP JENK art walk, which featured monumental sculptures in vibrant colors throughout the urban space, in dialogue with the Mediterranean landscape.

A 2-m high Bougainvillier sculpture has since been installed at the entrance to the town.

In 2023, a new walk was organized in Cambrai (France), also featuring the permanent installation of a sculpture designed especially for the event.

Creative Workshops

Driven by a generous and inclusive vision of art, Laurence Jenkell has always worked to make artistic creation accessible to all. Her Creative Workshops embody this desire to share and pass on her knowledge.

Make Your Own Bonbon workshop allows participants to create a 10 cm plexiglass Candy (Bonbon) sculpture, signed by JENK Studio and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

In the **Make Your Own Candy Charm** workshop, participants can create key rings and bag charms made from Barrisol fabric.

Guided by the artist, participants discover creative techniques and her iconic world of Candy.

These workshops are open to all and provide an introduction to Laurence Jenkell's artistic universe, fostering direct interaction between the artist and the public.





Collections



Wrapping Candy

An emblematic piece in the artist's sculptural repertoire, the Wrapping Candy encapsulates the defining gesture of her creative universe.

Having mastered plexiglass, she invented the twisting technique (Wrapping), which became her artistic signature and is applied to materials such as plexiglass, bronze, polyester, aluminium, marble and Murano glass.



Wrapping Twist

The artist continues her exploration of the torsion through the Wrapping Twist collection, whose sculptures evoke the crumpled wrapping of candies.

Taking a more socially engaged approach, the Bitter Sweet collection applies this style to address societal issues such as endangered species and overconsumption.

Collections



Ice Candy



Ice Candy Block

First appearing in 2015, the Ice Candy sculptures represent a new phase in the artist's exploration of matter and light, showcasing transparency and refraction effects.

They are carved from solid plexiglass using a hammer and chisel and polished to a glass-like finish.

Building on this research, the Ice Candy Block series adopts a more structured approach, combining geometric shapes with fragmented sections.

This composition highlights the tension between structure and transformation, a recurring theme in Laurence Jenkell’s sculptural language.







Collections



Monacandy

Monacandy is a nod to Monaco, combining the words "Monaco" and "Candy."

Inspired by the summer heat and the cooling effect of fans, this collection features lighter, more airy works than the Wrapping Candy sculptures while retaining a similar twisting technique.



ADN

In her previous collections, ADN explored the torsion as a founding principle.

She shapes plexiglass into spiralling forms that evoke the double helix, symbolizing the origin and transmission of life. Through this material, she recreates the dynamic structure of DNA.

Collections



Robot

This collection explores the complexities of the contemporary world, questioning humanity's place in the face of the rise of new technologies.

Laurence Jenkell considers our reliance on machines and what the future holds for humanity in a world where robots may one day develop their own consciousness.



Butterfly

In this collection, the artist translates her signature sculptural style, the torsion, into an ethereal and organic form, drawing inspiration from the butterfly, a universal emblem of transformation, freedom and rebirth.

The wings are made of translucent, luminous materials that capture the light and reveal subtle chromatic variations.





Monumental Works

Designed to interact with architecture and the landscape, Laurence Jenkell's monumental sculptures blend into their surroundings while asserting a strong sculptural presence. They are immediately recognisable thanks to their iconic wrapping gesture.

These monumental works, which can reach up to 5 metres in height, have been presented in numerous cities in France and abroad. They are featured in both temporary exhibitions and permanent installations in public spaces.

They are also included in numerous private collections in France and internationally. Their presence in these collections highlights the international and enduring nature of her artistic approach.



Collaboration & Jenkellised



Laurence Jenkell has collaborated with international brands such as Coca-Cola and Mattel, incorporating her artistic style into projects related to their visual identities.

These collaborations result in personalised works in which the brand's identity interacts with Jenkell's artistic style. Examples include works known as 'Jenkellised', such as Mattel's Barbie.

Jenkellising a work consists of integrating, at the heart of an authentic Wrapping Candy, an object, symbol, or message specially designed to interact with the theme of a collaboration or significant event.

This process turns the sculpture into a narrative medium, with the iconic twist of the Candy acting as a showcase that reveals a particular identity, story or value.





Artprice Reports

According to Artprice reports, Laurence Jenkell is one of the artists most frequently featured at auctions in recent years.

2020 Special Report
20 Years of Contemporary Art Auctions

Ranked No. 430 in the Top 1000 international contemporary artists most sold at auction.

2018 Report

Among the best-selling French artists in the United States and in the Top 10 French artists present on this market.

2017 Report

Ranked No. 274 in the Top 500 Contemporary Artists.



Contact

All Laurence Jenkell's works: jenkell.com
Email: contact@jenkell.com

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