

## AGATHON LÉONARD

### *DANSEUSE NO.9, PART OF THE JEU DE L'ÉCHARPE TABLE CENTERPIECE*



*The Jeu de l'écharpe* (Scarf Game) created in 1900 is made up of fifteen dancers in two sizes. fifteen dancers produced in two sizes.

*The Dancer no. 9* represents a young woman standing, her hair in a bun, lifting the bottom of her dress with a delicate gesture of her right hand, her head bowed to her left.

Each of the young women is characterised by a specific attitude and hairstyle. Their flowing dresses, with high waists and flared sleeves, are reminiscent of Loïe Fuller, who in 1891 invented the «serpentine dance», a choreographic performance using light projections on her veil costume, the sides of which she waved.

It was presented as a diplomatic gift to the Tsar and Empress of Russia in October 1901, when they visited the Manufacture. Complete sets are kept at the French Embassy in Prague, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and the Musée national de Céramique in Sèvres. Today, the fifteen dancers in two sizes can be manufactured on order.

Léonard Agathon Van Weydevelde, known as Agathon Léonard (Lille 1841-Paris 1923), was a guest at the Manufacture de Sèvres, where he produced models for sculptures between 1894 and 1903.

*Porcelain biscuit*

*Sèvres marks*

*Height 42 (first size) created in 1900, contemporary manufacturing*

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## ETTORE SOTTASS *MESSALINE*



In 1994, Sèvres presented a set of fourteen sculpture-totems in porcelain designed by Ettore Sottsass as part of his first retrospective at the Centre Pompidou. A tribute to femininity, each work bears the name of a woman who has marked her era.

*Valeria Messalina (25/48)* was the third wife of the emperor Claudius, and gave birth to Britannicus. It seems difficult to separate her dark legend from historical reality.

This work is made up of seven elements, each with its own colour and shape. The inside of the bowl is reminiscent of Sèvres blue. Each element is turned and given a grand feu colour (fired at

over 1,000 degrees) by insufflation. After fitting, the elements are finally assembled and adjusted.

Italian architect and designer Ettore Sottsass (1917-2007) is considered one of the leaders of contemporary design and a key figure in avant-garde culture. In 1980, he created the Memphis Milano movement, which was to become the international model known for its eclecticism of styles, a tone of humour and irony, and motifs and colours that exude an immediate sensuality, which we find here in his ceramic work. A major retrospective of his work was held at Sèvres in 2013, curated by Michele de Lucchi. He has been invited twice to Sèvres, in 1994 and 2006.

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*Enamelled porcelain*  
*Sèvres marks and artist's signature*  
*Height 34 cm, diameter 40 cm*  
*Created in 1994-1995, contemporary manufacturing*

## LY VASE



The shape of the Ly vase was conceived in 1849 at the instigation of Jacques-Joseph Ebelmen, a mining engineer who was assistant administrator to Alexandre Brongniart from 1845 and then Director of the Manufacture in 1847.

The vase was produced by the grand coulage workshop. It is hand-decorated in Sèvres blue, the deep, distinctive colour that is emblematic of Sèvres. This cobalt blue, defined around 1778, is made from cobalt oxide. It is applied in three successive coats using a brush, with intermediate drying.

This vase, with its perfectly smooth, flawless surface, bears witness to the virtuosity of the Sèvres workshops, which achieved a veritable technical feat.

Two gold fillets applied by hand to the lip and foot enhance the shape. Dull after firing, the brilliance of the gold is revealed in the burnishing workshop by smoothing with agate and haematite.

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*Porcelain, Sèvres blue and 24 carat gold threads  
Sèvres marks  
Height 60 cm, diameter 28 cm*