

VIDEO: Sculptural Symphony of Germaine Richier at Dominique Lévy, Perrotin

by Dion Tan 04/04/14 7:34 AM EDT

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It's been more than half a century since [Germaine Richier](#) (1902 - 1959) left her mark in America. She's again front-and-center as Dominique Lévy and Emmanuel Perrotin mount a joint exhibition in their landmark Madison Avenue galleries in New York, tracing the French sculptor's artistic trajectory as a revolutionary artist of her time.

Richier was a seminal postwar figure in Modern Art. She began her career in the studio of Antoine Bourdelle and broke conventions with her darkly-patinated bronze sculptures ranging from figurative pieces to hybrids of humans crossed with animals. These seemingly defiant and startling pieces of torsos, bats, and vegetal organisms earned her international recognition before her untimely death at the age of 57.

"I think they are a complete love poem to humanness," said Dominique Lévy. "She's opened the inside and really turns your inside out. That's where I think only a woman could've sculpted these works."

The exhibition spans three floors of the two galleries' 909 Madison Avenue space with more than 40 of Richier's mystical figures. Upon entering the gallery, visitors are greeted by her monumental "La Spirale" (1957), a polished bronze flora-like sculpture that stands at almost ten feet. The second and third floors house a



symphony of her darker works such as her astonishing “La Mante, moyenne” (1946), a crouching and gesturing amalgam of an ambiguous mantis or man. In addition, a selection of Brassai’s photos documenting Richier’s studio are presented throughout the exhibit.

“*Germaine Richier*” is on view now through April 12 at Dominique Lévy and Galerie Perrotin at 909 Madison Avenue in New York City.

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