



Untitled (Capri), c. 2004

Pierre Le-Tan (1950-2019) was born in Paris to a Vietnamese father and a French mother. His father, a painter and son of a Tonkinese Viceroy, emigrated to France before the war. Le-Tan learnt to draw at his father's knee, who frequently gave him old Japanese and Chinese books and prints. At age 17, Le-Tan was commissioned by the *New Yorker Magazine* for his first cover, which would mark the beginning of a long and fruitful collaboration and work with many other American publications, such as *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

Spanning more than 50 years, Le-Tan's career was rich and varied, from set design for film and theatre to his association with his daughter Olympia's Parisian fashion label and designing over 100 book covers and film posters. His close friendship with Patrick Modiano resulted in a number of collaborative works, with Modiano's melancholic prose serving as the perfect subtext to Le-Tan's reflections of a forgotten Paris, full of strange and endearing characters. One of Le-Tan's key publications, *Album* (1992), epitomises his intimate, eclectic style: a "scrapbook" full of past encounters with Greta Garbo, Christian Lacroix and Mick Jagger, holiday souvenirs, photos of old friends, hundreds of drawings ranging from his visit to Cecil Beaton's house to a cigarette box made by Picasso, Cardin shoes and a chair from the Palace of Versailles.

"I knew very early on that this was it for me and nothing else: drawing and my art collection." As a child, Le-Tan frequented Les Puces de Saint-Ouen, the famed antiques market near Paris, with his father. He started collecting at age seven and his Parisian apartment – previously Jean Cocteau's pied-à-terre – is full of lacquered Japanese boxes, Chinese ceramics, drawings by Giacometti, Warhol and Hockney, ancient Greek antiquities and 18th-century Turkish carpets. Le-Tan's collection underlines his constant visual dialogue between East and West, the antique and the contemporary. His avid passion for collecting is reflected in his drawings, his minute attention to objects and detail, and his careful curating of miniature museums on paper.

Le-Tan described himself as an entomologist, focused on detail and observation, using Chinese ink to portray a mixture of tenderness and cruelty through his nostalgic and timeless interiors and characters. "His drawings must be read and his words must be seen," says his friend and writer Umberto Pasti. Indeed, Le-Tan, who considered himself as Asian in his style of drawing, perpetuated the Asian tradition of blurring the boundaries between what should be read and what should be seen, creating a wonderful and intimate visual language.

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- Selected Exhibitions**
- 2024 *Transparency*, group show, Lyndsey Ingram, London
 - 2023 Pop-up event of "Hotel Olympia", a brand by Olympia Le-Tan, ISETAN THE SPACE, Tokyo
 - 2022 *Pierre Le-Tan: Early Works 1960s - 1990s*, Frieze Masters presentation by Tristan Hoare Gallery, London
 - 2020 *Pierre Le-Tan: Table des Matières*, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Villa Paloma, Monaco
 - 2019 *I Draw*, D Museum, Seoul
Habiter l'intime, Fondation Thalie, Brussels
More, Air de Paris, Paris
Botanica, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London
 - 2018 *The Collection of Mr. X*, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London
Black & White, Galerie 11 Columbia, Monaco
 - 2017 *Pierre Le-Tan*, Galerie Nicolas Schwed, Paris
Pierre Le-Tan: Intérieur de Fantaisie, Air de Paris Gallery, Paris
Facade Wallpaper, Pierre Le-Tan and Olympia Le-Tan, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Tokyo
 - 2016 *Boites*, Galerie Etienne Bréton and Nicolas Schwed, Paris
 - 2013 *Onze Collectionneurs*, Galerie Nicolas Schwed, Paris
 - 2012 *Pierre Le-Tan*, Dennis Severs House, London, organised by East of Mayfair
 - 2011 *Intérieurs - extérieurs*, Galerie Nicolas Schwed, Paris
 - 2010 *Botanique*, Galerie Papers, Bruxelles
 - 2009 *Portraits*, Institut français, Munich
Pierre Le-Tan, Galerie Papers, Bruxelles.
 - 2004 *Pierre Le-Tan*, Musée Reina Sofia, Madrid
 - 1999 *Intérieurs*, Galerie Bartsch und Chariou, Munich
Pierre Le-Tan, Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo
 - 1996 *Pierre Le-Tan*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York
 - 1995 *Pierre Le-Tan*, Acquarelli e disegni, Galleria Antonia Jannone, Milan
 - 1994 *Le-Tan, Janviers en Bourgogne*, Espace des arts, Chalon-sur-Saône
 - 1993 *Epaves et débris sur la plage*, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris
Hommage à Max Ponty, Palais de Chaillot, Paris, organised by Echo International
 - 1992 Exhibition at Bartsch & Chariou gallery, Munich
 - 1990 Exhibition at Montenay gallery, Paris
 - 1984 Exhibition at Bartsch & Chariou gallery, Munich
 - 1981 Exhibition at Galerie Delpire, Paris
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**Selected
Collaborations /
Commissions**

- 2018 Window display for Fenwicks of Bond Street celebrating The Royal Academy's 250th Anniversary
Pierre Le-Tan, *Noir & Blanc*. Monaco: Galerie 11 Columbia, 2018, exhibition catalogue.
- 2016 Pierre Le-Tan, *Boites*. Paris: Publicationes Alberto Ricci, exhibition catalogue at Galerie Etienne Bréton and Nicolas Schwed, Paris
- 2013 Pierre Le-Tan, *Quelques Collectionneurs*. Paris: Flammarion
Pierre Le-Tan, *Onze Collectionneurs*. Paris: Flammarion, exhibition catalogue at Galerie Nicolas Schwed, Paris
- 2012 Pierre Le-Tan, Emmanuel Pierre. *Les aventures de Ralph et Wulfran ou comment ne jamais s'ennuyer*. Paris: Alma Editeur
- 2011 Umberto Pasti, illustrations by Pierre Le-Tan, *Jardins : Les vrais et les autres*. Paris: Flammarion
Pierre Le-Tan, *Intérieurs – extérieurs*. Paris: Galerie Nicolas Schwed, 2011, exhibition catalogue.
- 2008 Roberto Peregalli, illustrations by Pierre Le-Tan, *La corazza ricamata. I greci e l'invisibile*. Milan: Rizzoli Editore
- 2004 José Carlos Llop, Patrick Modiano, Patrick Mauriès, Umberto Pasti, Pierre Le-Tan, Pierre Le-Tan. Madrid: Aldeasa and Museo Reina Sofia edition, exhibition catalogue.
- 2012-20 Collaboration with the fashion designer and daughter Olympia Le-Tan
- 1998 Paints murals for the Mirabelle restaurant in London
- 1997 Theatre set design for *Quadrille*, directed by Valerie Lemerrier
- 1970-1987 Cover illustrations for the *New Yorker* magazine

Art Fairs

- 2023 NOMAD St. Moritz, Tristan Hoare Gallery, Room 209
- 2021 Frieze Masters London, *Early Works 1960s — 1990s*, Tristan Hoare Gallery

Selected Publications

- Pierre Le-Tan, *Noir & Blanc*. Monaco: Galerie 11 Columbia, 2018, exhibition catalogue.
- Pierre Le-Tan, *Boites*. Paris: Publicationes Alberto Ricci, 2016, exhibition catalogue at Galerie Etienne Bréton and Nicolas Schwed, Paris.
- Pierre Le-Tan, *Quelques Collectionneurs*. Paris: Flammarion, 2013.
- Pierre Le-Tan, *Onze Collectionneurs*. Paris: Flammarion, 2013, exhibition catalogue at Galerie Nicolas Schwed, Paris.
- Pierre Le-Tan, Emmanuel Pierre. *Les aventures de Ralph et Wulfran ou comment ne jamais s'ennuyer*. Paris: Alma Editeur, 2012.

Selected Publications
(continued...)

Umberto Pasti, illustrations by Pierre Le-Tan, *Jardins : Les vrais et les autres*. Paris: Flammarion, 2011.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Intérieurs – extérieurs*. Paris: Galerie Nicolas Schwed, 2011, exhibition catalogue.

Roberto Peregalli, illustrations by Pierre Le-Tan, *La corazza ricamata. I greci e l'invisibile*. Milan: Rizzoli Editore, 2008.

José Carlos Llop, Patrick Modiano, Patrick Mauriès, Umberto Pasti, Pierre Le-Tan, *Pierre Le-Tan*. Madrid: Aldeasa and Museo Reina Sofía edition, 2004, exhibition catalogue.

Pierre Le-Tan, with photographs of Ivan Terestchenko, *Objets trouvés*. Droue sur Drouette: Éditions La Pionnière, 1998.

Clémence de Biéville, Louis Max, illustrations by Pierre Le-Tan, *L'Histoire d'une famille*. Paris: Éditions de l'Épure, 1997.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Carnet des années Pop*. Paris: collection "Le Cabinet des lettrés", Gallimard, 1997.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Carnet tangérois*. Paris: collection "Le Cabinet des lettrés", Gallimard, 1996.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Catalogue Le-Tan. Janviers en Bourgogne*. Paris: collection "Le Promeneur," Gallimard, 1994, exhibition catalogue at Espace des Arts, Chalon-sur-Saône.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Épaves et débris sur la plage*. Paris: collection "Le Promeneur," Gallimard, 1993.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Cléo prépare Noël*. Paris: collection "Jeunesse/Giboulées," Gallimard, 1993.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Album*. Paris, Aubier, 1990.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Lettres de Marik Loisy*, Paris, Aubier, 1989.

Pierre Le-Tan, preface by Patrick Modiano, *Paris de ma jeunesse*. Paris, Aubier, 1988.

Patrick Mauriès, illustrations by Pierre Le-Tan, *Vies oubliées*. Paris: éditions Payot et Rivages, 1988.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Les Contraires*. Paris: Hatier, 1986.

Pierre Le-Tan, *Rencontres d'une vie : 1945-1984*. Paris: collection "Albums," Aubier, 1986.

Pierre Le-Tan, Patrick Modiano, *Poupée blonde*. Paris: collection "Fictions," P.O.L., 1983.

Pierre Le-Tan, Patrick Modiano, *Memory Lane*. Paris: Hachette, 1981.
