

## **Le salon de la Nationale des Beaux-arts Réfectoire des Cordeliers**

The Société Nationale des Beaux-arts was founded in 1861 by Louis Martinet and Théophile Gauthier, with the aim of making art less academic, less dependent on public commissions, and teaching artists to do their own thing. Its board included such prestigious artists as Théophile Gauthier, Eugène Delacroix and Gustave Courbet. In 1890, the society was re-founded by Meissonnier, who brought with him Puvis de Chavannes, Rodin and Carolus-Duran. The SNBA began holding annual exhibitions at the Champs de Mars, attracting such greats as Camille Claudel and Suzanne Valadon, as well as artists from all walks of life. Today, the SNBA continues to welcome French, Japanese, Mexican, Serbian, Slovenian, American, Canadian, Korean, Australian, Chinese and many others. Numerous prizes and awards have been presented over the years, including the Baumel-Schwenck prize for sculptors; the Charles Carey-Rumsey prize for a sculptor; and the Puvis de Chavannes prize for an emerging artist. New partners have chosen to recognize the SNBA's continuity: Singul'Art, Maison du Japon, Maison Deyrolle, ADAGP, Géant des Beaux-arts and the French Navy.

After many years at the Grand Palais and then the Carrousel du Louvre, the show found a new home in the Réfectoire des Cordeliers. The show ran from September 14 to 24 and was divided into two parts: photography and drawing during the first week, painting during the second, with sculptors being the lucky ones as they exhibited for two weeks. Administrator Bénédicte Lecat presented ten American artists: six photographers, two sculptors and two painters. Three photographers and one painter received awards: a Gold Medal for Daniel Hurwitz, a Jean Larivière Mention for Pamela Takiff, also an ASL Bronze Medal, a Bronze Medal for Dawn Watson and a Taylor Foundation Award for Lynette Shaw. It's worth noting that Jean Larivière is one of the last great French photographers, having learned his craft with Chris Marker and worked for 30 years with Louis Vuitton on its advertising campaigns.