



Julie Eugène, *Art Concierge*

Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris

Julie Eugène takes up the unique role of Art Concierge at *Art District*, the contemporary art gallery at Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris.

Her role is all-encompassing: from advising guests on investing in art while in Paris, to sharing her insider tips on the best of Parisian exhibitions and cultural events, Julie is able to tailor-make individual artistic experiences at the hotel and beyond. Truly passionate about her profession, Julie's role, and her presence, works to invigorate the *art de vivre* spirit of the hotel.

Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris is the only hotel in Paris to offer its guests, and all art lovers alike, this exclusive service. Through Julie, guests of the hotel have access to an exclusive selection of cultural and artistic news, Parisian exhibitions, auctions, live performances, concerts, artist workshops and activities for children. In addition, Julie delights in giving personalised tours of the hotel's private collection of art, of more than 350 distinct works.

Originally from Bordeaux, Julie developed a strong interest in photography from a young age, eventually began looking for links between this and the art world. Convinced she wanted to pursue a career in the arts, Julie studied for a degree in the History of Art at the University of Paris 8, where her specialist subject of research focused on teenage aesthetics.

After graduating, Julie was soon made artistic director of Euro RSCG, and advertising agency specialising in premium clients - and reconfirming her passion for a career in art. Along-side her studies, Julie exhibited her own photos at various exhibitions, but rather than pursuing a career as an artist, an unfortunate incident of stolen artworks swayed her, in a sense, to move towards wanting to protect art, and share the pleasure of it with others.

From Euro RSCG, Julie went on to complete stints working at contemporary art galleries including Parisian 55 and the Patricia Dorfmann Gallery - where Patricia herself became her mentor.

It was through a French street artist represented by Patricia Dorfmann, Zeus, that Julie first discovered the hotel. Zeus was asked to create an installation for the Royal Monceau Demolition Party – before the hotel was closed for its Philippe Starck makeover – and Julie assisted him. She then followed the renovation with interest - learning that the hotel was to have an Art Concierge – and set her sights on the job!

Since 2010 Julie has imbued her job with passion – whether it has been arranging for Museums and Galleries to be open outside business hours, asking an artist or curator to come and join art lovers for tea, organising studio visits, or even helping guests kick-start their own art collection. Guests can follow the hotel's blog, www.artforbreakfast.com, which also provides a full calendar of art and cultural events for guests.

PRESS CONTACT

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The Proust Questionnaire – according to Julie Eugène

1. What is the quality you most admire in a man?

Listening

2. What is the quality you most admire in a woman?

Shrewdness

3. If you could be somebody else, who would you be?

Wonder Woman! This is the nick name which was given to me by one of my students during our exhibition of paintings of an artist who represented heroines. She told me that I was capable of anything – like Wonder Woman – and that’s the nicest compliment I’ve ever had.

4. What is your biggest extravagance?

Working in a luxury hotel with dreadlocks, in a beautiful academic uniform! It is so chic, and shows the quirky spirit of our hotel.

5. What is the one talent you’d like to have?

Ubiquity – there are simply so many exciting exhibitions, artistic events and openings – I wish I could attend them all at the same time

6. How would you describe contemporary art in three words?

Living, current, exciting

7. Who is your favourite artist?

The photographer Nan Goldin, she started shooting as a teenager. With no money, she developed her own photographic technique without artificial light. She is a great artist who has managed to freeze moments of extreme sensitivity – shocking moments, even. She was able to create a delicate picture of an underground world in her work.

8. What is your favourite form of art?

Street art – especially the transition of street art. What interests me the most is the transition of art from the street to the gallery – using the analogy of adolescence. It is this metamorphosis which I find so interesting.

9. The world is going to end tomorrow: what is the last work of art which you’d go to admire?

That’s impossible! I absolutely couldn’t choose between going to see a work of art, listening to a piece of music, or reading a favourite novel... I think that I would have to re-listen to my entire MP3, re-read *La Nuit des Temps* by Rene Barjavel, and return to Patricia Doorfman’s cellar to admire the works in her collection.

10. What is THE place in Paris not to miss?

The Belleville quartier. All of the galleries are going up in the world right now – and having a moment. This is the new district of Paris which is really shining!