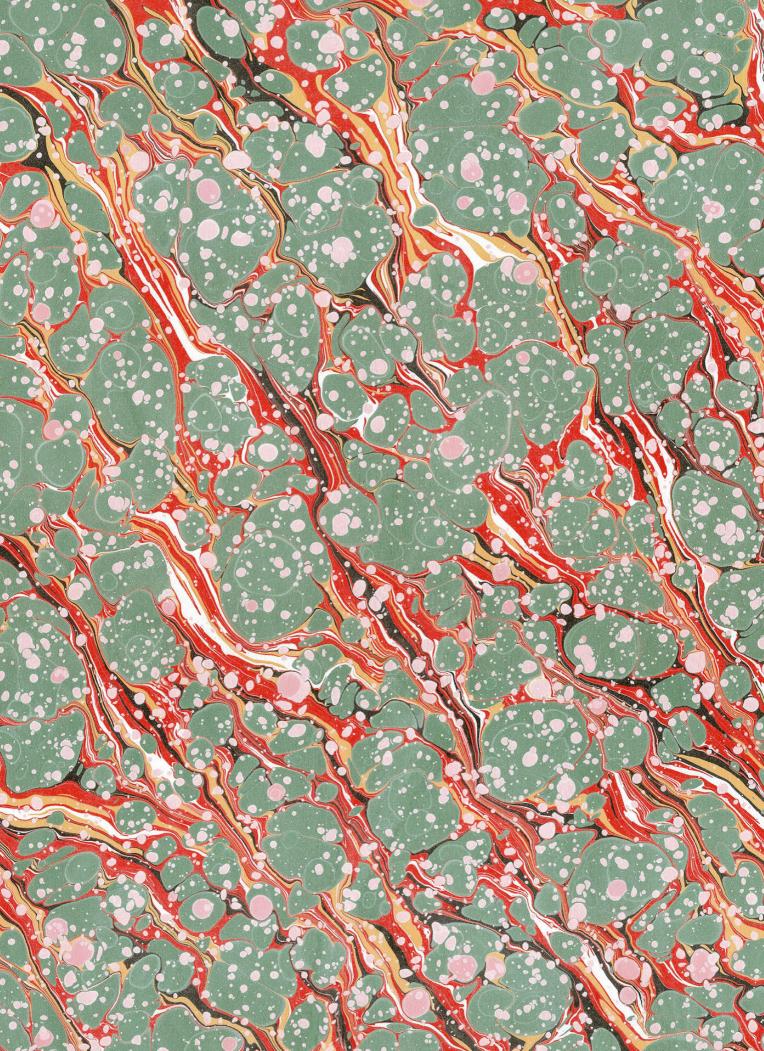
### MARIN MONTAGUT TIMELESS PARIS

ATELIERS • EMPORIUMS • SAVOIR FAIRE









## TIMELESS PARIS

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Production Corinne Trovarelli and Élodie Conjat

> Color Separation Les Artisans du Regard

Printed in Portugal by Printer Portuguesa

**FRENCH EDITION** 

Editorial Director Julie Rouart

Administration Manager Delphine Montagne

Literary Director Gaëlle Lassée assisted by Séléna Richez English-language edition © Flammarion, S.A., Paris, 2021

Simultaneously published in French as Le Paris Merveilleux de Marin Montagut: Échoppes et ateliers d'antan © Flammarion, S.A., Paris, 2021

© Adagp, Paris, 2021: pp. 54, 58, 60: Maurice Utrillo; pp. 168–69: Roger Bezombes, André Brasilier, Bernard Buffet, Bernard Cathelin, Marc Chagall, Constantin Terechkovitch; pp. 174–75: Maurice Brianchon, Marc Chagall, Comité Cocteau, Lennart Jirlow, Fernand Léger.

p. 175: © Françoise Gilot, *Tulips* and *Pineapple* and Watermelon.

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Baykul Baris Yilmaz created the marbled paper.

Ludovic Balay photographed the Musée de Montmartre, Deyrolle, Ultramod, Féau & Cie, Idem Paris, Académie de la Grande Chaumière, and Produits d'Antan.

Pierre Musellec photographed La Maison du Pastel, Passementerie Verrier, Musée de Minéralogie, Librairie Jousseaume, Bouclerie Poursin, Á la Providence, Soubrier, Sennelier, Herboristerie de la Place Clichy, Graineterie du Marché, and Yveline Antiques.

Romain Ricard photographed the boutique Marin Montagut.

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editions.flammarion.com

21 22 23 3 2 1

ISBN: 978-2-0802-7351-2

Legal Deposit: 10/2021

#### **MARIN MONTAGUT**

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# TIMELESS PARIS

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUDOVIC BALAY, PIERRE MUSELLEC, AND ROMAIN RICARD

**ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARIN MONTAGUT** 

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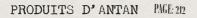


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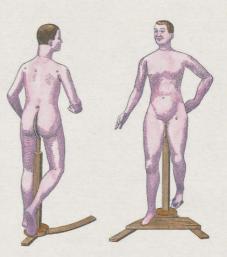
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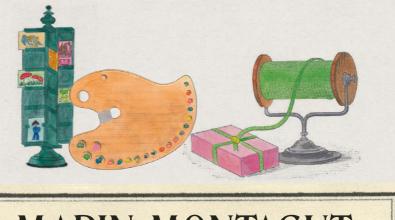




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#### MARIN MONTAGUT

#### 48 RUE MADAME - PARIS 6<sup>E</sup>

I grew up in Toulouse, and, thanks to my parents, who were antique dealers, and my grandmother, who was an accomplished artist, I developed an appreciation for beautiful things at an early age. No detail escaped my notice and every object seemed to have its own tale to tell. But secretly I harbored the hope that, one day, I would live in Paris. I finally arrived in the City of Lights a few days after my nineteenth birthday, with little more than my paintbrushes and a box of watercolors.

Peering up at the blue and green enameled street signs, I learned the names by heart, so I could revisit them one day. I felt like I was immersed in a living postcard, from the metal chairs in the Luxembourg Gardens to the bridges over the Seine, and from the steeple of the Saint-Germain-des-Prés abbey to the Eiffel Tower. Instantly, I knew I could never live anywhere else-Paris was destined to be my forever home. I continued to explore the capital's byways over the years, determined to seek out the city behind the scenes, with all its secrets and surprises. Venturing across these thresholds, I found myself stepping into boutiques and workshops steeped in history and brimming with unexpected treasures. I encountered dedicated men and women who are the humble guardians of a priceless heritage of artisanal and ancestral expertise.

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Inspired by these poignant discoveries, I decided to create a book to share and celebrate nineteen of these special places. Each of them is like a moment suspended in time, captured in photographs and illustrated by my watercolors and mood boards. I hope you'll steep yourself in their colors and ambiences, delight in fine craftsmanship, and lose yourself in a kaleidoscopic world of rare and extraordinary objects. All of these establishments are dedicated to preserving the soul of Paris. As you leaf through the book, you'll encounter hidden museums, traditional ateliers, and old-world emporiums.





Breathe in the irresistible fragrance of herbs and plants that wafts from an herbalist's boutique near Place Clichy. Follow in the footsteps of Colette and Cocteau, and let yourself be enchanted by the array of rare, beautifully bound volumes housed in a bookshop in the Galerie Vivienne. Time-travel to the early twentieth century, to the Montparnasse of artists such as Aragon, Man Ray, and Picasso: there, you'll visit a printer's workshop and an art academy. Linger a while to enjoy the window displays of an antique shop on Place Furstemberg, the most charming square in Paris. Pause to view the legendary storefront of a firm that, for almost two hundred years, has been devoted to the sciences of taxidermy and entomology. Stroll along the banks of the Seine and, not far from the École des Beaux-Arts, you'll be delighted to enter-like Cézanne and Degas in their day-one of the oldest artists' supply shops in Paris.

These timeless places and professions have been an inspiration for my own creations. In the spirit of this Paris of yesteryear, committed to traditional arts and craftmanship, I opened my first store on Rue Madame, just steps away from the beautiful Luxembourg Gardens that I hold so dear. It took me months of searching to find the perfect spot: a former upholsterer's workshop with an old-fashioned store window and façade. I reconfigured the space to create three distinct rooms: a curio shop, a boudoir, and a studio. With my passion for all things from the past, I carefully restored the original parquet floors and terra-cotta floor tiles, and salvaged pigeonhole shelving from an old grocery store in the south of France to display my treasures.

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My favorite color is green, and I've used every shade, from the palest to the deepest. I chose Parisian kiosk-green to frame the glass partition in front of my studio. You can hear the creak of ancient timber floorboards in my shop, and breathe in the scent of old wood paneling. It's a voyage into a childhood wonderland, recalling my youthful dreams of Paris. The inscription on the façade of this modern-day store reads "Purveyor of All Kinds of Objects." With my watercolors, I conjure up items to brighten up my everyday life: stationery, tableware, boxes, pillows, and silk scarves, each with a different story to tell. My signature creations are entirely handmade in my Montmartre studio, including the illusory "livres à secrets" (hollow books), based on an eighteenth-century tradition, and the "vitrines à merveilles" (wonder windows) evoking imaginary escapades. I also bring back intriguing and beautiful finds whenever I travel. My love of antique hunting, which stems back to my childhood, has never left me. Each week, I return laden with old globes, apothecary jars, insect display

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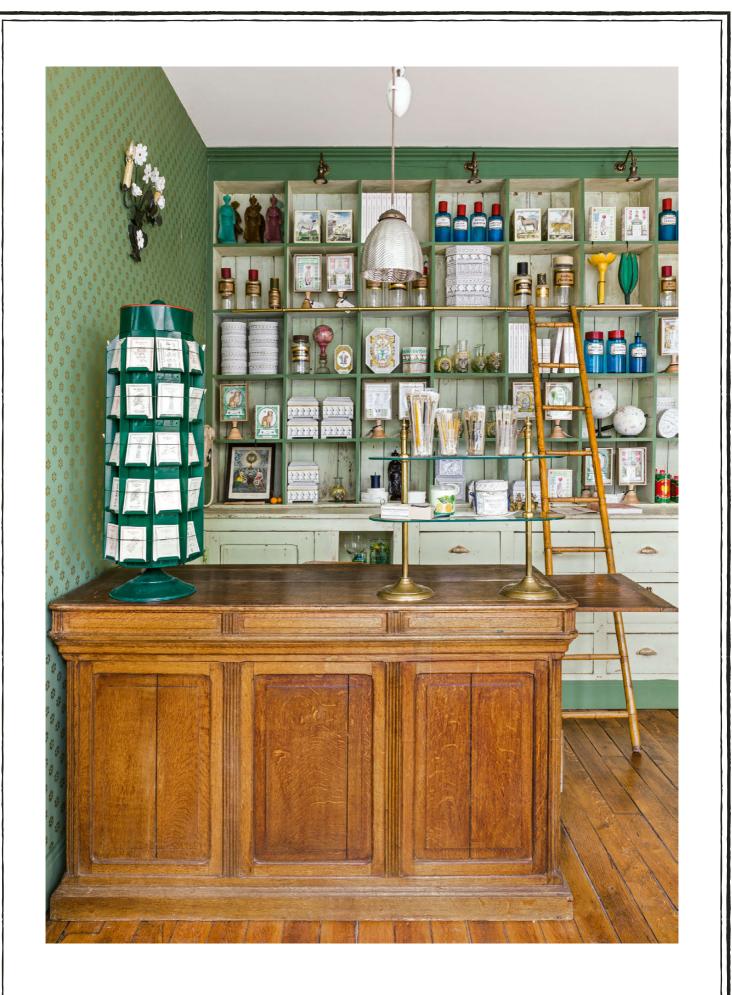
Nothing brings me more pleasure than seeing the treasures displayed at 48 Rue Madame become your own cherished memories. As for the destinations revealed in this book, I hope they will inspire you to see Paris afresh and encourage you, in turn, to venture through unfamiliar doorways.

cases, and other curiosities to delight my future visitors.



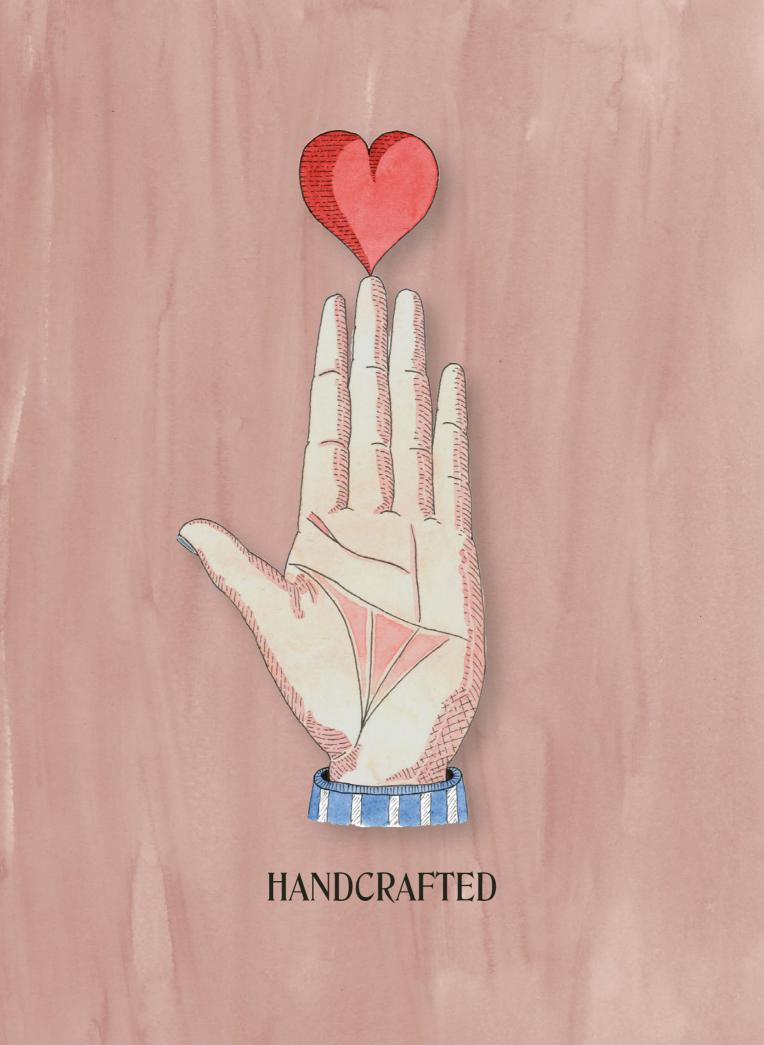






























À QUELQUES PAS DU JARDIN DU LUXEMBOURG