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The passing on of a life's work

Following the passing of Ado Chale in April 2025, the Atelier Ado Chale continues its mission today with the same exacting devotion to craftsmanship. Under the guidance of his children, Ilona Chale and Pierre Chale, who have established a new entity dedicated to safeguarding and developing the oeuvre, this familial continuity marks a significant moment in the history of Belgian design: far from interrupting the creative momentum, it extends that dynamic with fidelity, precision, and reverence.

A singular figure in twentieth-century design, Ado Chale forged, at the crossroads of art, craftsmanship, and raw material, a body of work that is instantly recognisable. Entirely self-taught, he developed from the 1960s onward a personal visual language rooted in mineralogy, rare materials, and an almost alchemical approach to the table as a work of art. His creations—most notably his celebrated Goutte d'Eau—often composed of semi-precious stones, epoxy resin, bronze, or aluminium, swiftly found their place within the most refined interiors, both in Belgium and abroad.

The new generation intends to preserve this living legacy without fixing it in amber. The pieces recently produced are, therefore, not new creations in the strict sense, but rather the realisation of original works conceived by Ado Chale yet never editioned during his lifetime. This endeavour draws upon a replenished stock of materials, the development of new forms derived from the artist's drawings and guiding principles, and the incorporation of rare stones previously absent from his original vocabulary—always in keeping with his creative spirit and his exacting standards. It is an approach that continues a trajectory which, since the 1960s, has held artisanal skill and formal exploration in dialogue.

In restoring visibility to Ado Chale's body of work, Ilona and Pierre Chale affirm a simple conviction: the modernity of this creation remains wholly intact. At a moment when authenticity, quality of execution, and the rarity of materials are prized more than ever, Ado Chale's universe emerges with renewed force—that of a creator who, in his own words and those of his intimates, never ceased to "elevate nature to its sublime."

With this in mind, two new tables—testament to the Atelier Ado Chale's ambition to bring a major work of Belgian design to the attention of collectors, interior architects, and institutions alike—will be unveiled to industry professionals this coming October. Concurrently, an aluminium edition of the renowned Boule piece, adorned with a mosaic of schist and ranked among the hundred iconic works of twentieth-century design, is also under consideration—a prospect that would extend the story of an iconic object by casting it in an entirely new materiality.

About Ado Chale:

Born Adolphe Pelsener in Brussels in 1928 and having passed away in 2025, Ado Chale established himself as one of the great Belgian artisan-creators of the twentieth century. His work has been exhibited and collected internationally, and enjoyed a considerable resurgence of interest during the first decade of the twenty-first century.