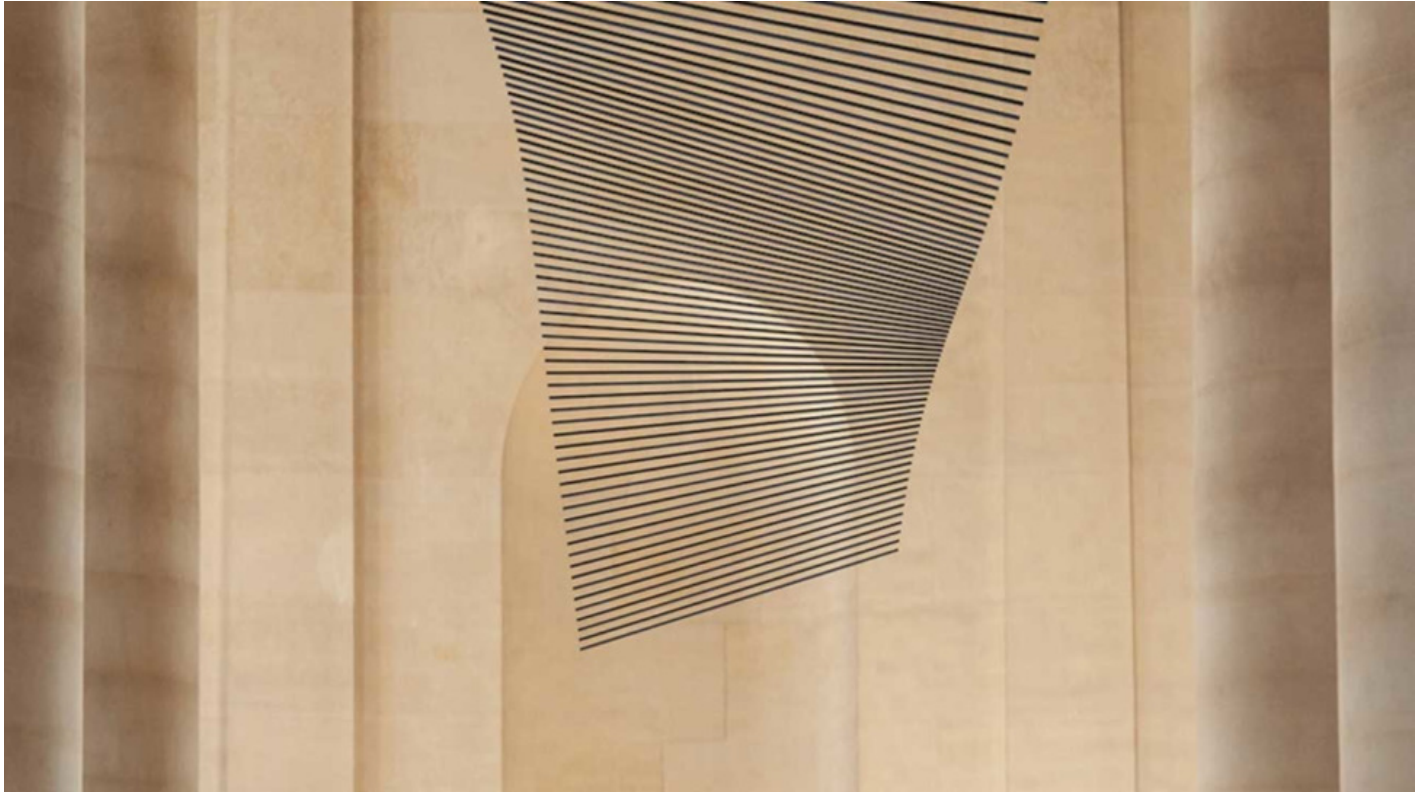


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New contemporary art decor signed Elias Crespín soon at the Louvre



Elias Crespín, Simulation of *L'Onde du Midi* (detail) © Elias Crespín Visual Pascal Maillard

From January 25, an electrokinetic sculpture by Elias Crespín will be installed on the first floor of the Midi staircase (Sully wing) of the Louvre museum.

After Anselm Kiefer, François Morellet and Cy Twombly, it's Elias Crespín's turn to endow the Louvre with one of his works. On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Pyramid, the museum invites the contemporary Venezuelan artist for a new lasting decoration. Entitled *Onde du Midi*, the work will be located at the top of the Midi staircase, at the southeast corner of the Cour Carrée (Sully wing), offering visitors "a stopover in its journey, becoming the theater of 'a silent ballet,'" explains the museum.

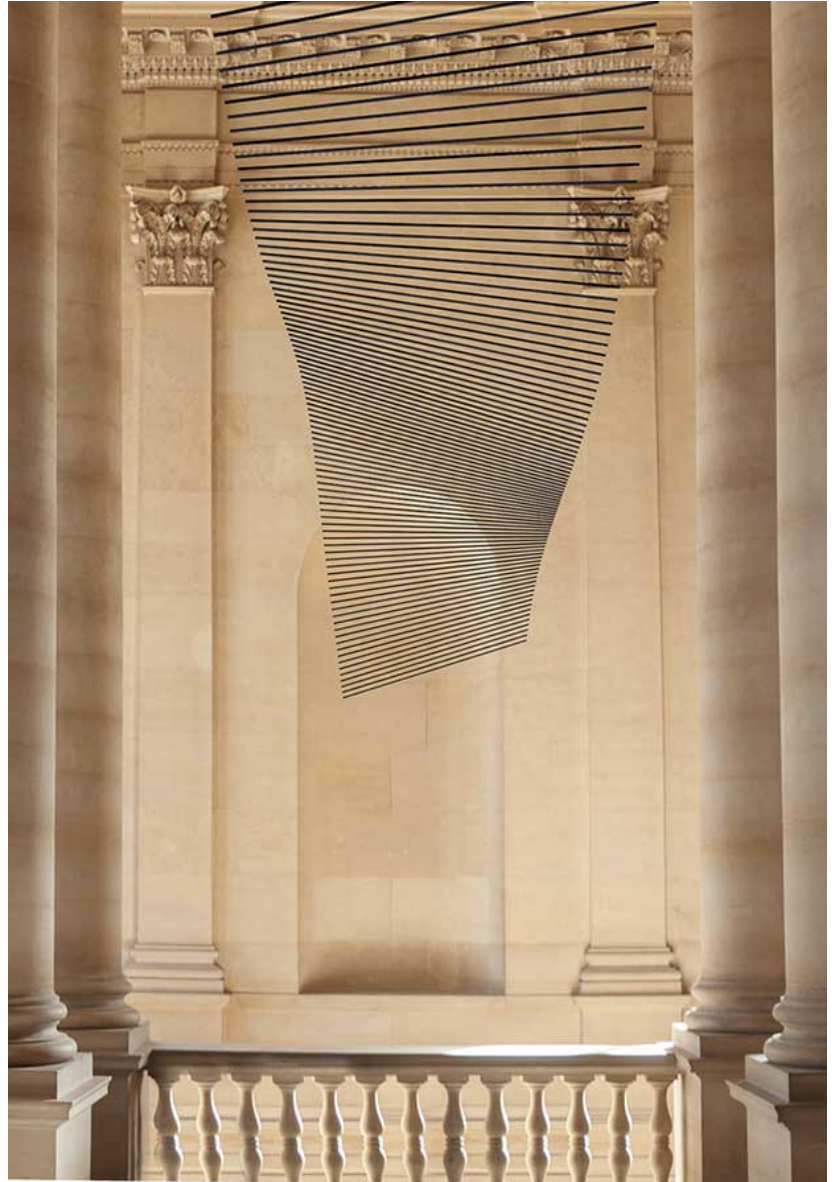
A silent ballet

Like the artist's other creations, the *Onde du Midi* combines science and art. The sculpture will be made up of 128 cylindrical metal tubes suspended from invisible wires animated by 256 motors which will draw a wave choreography over a 30-minute sequence. *L' Onde du Midi* will be almost 10 meters long and will be in constant motion to the rhythm of the digital algorithms developed by the artist, a computer engineer by training.

This kinetic work belongs to the category of mobiles “Plano Flexionante” by Elias Crespin which create surprising spatial configurations. “*I have always been interested in forms and logic. I am sensitive to sensuality and to the perception of things, like enjoying a beautiful sunset. But I’m also interested in more complex things, such as the functions, the properties of a circle or a triangle, the design that can be generated by a particular mathematical relationship*”, describes the artist. Elias Crespin's works are kept in prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Museo del Barrio in New York and the MALBA in Buenos Aires. Recently, the artist participated in the *Artists and robots* exhibition (2018) at the Grand Palais.

A work that is part of the tradition of large public commissions from the Louvre

By investing in the Louvre palace, Elias Crespin pursues an illustrious tradition of commissioning painted and sculpted decorations, initiated in the 17th century with the cycle of paintings designed by Charles Le Brun, at the request of Louis XIV, for the Galerie d'Apollon . After him will come Eugène Delacroix, who continues the work of Le Brun, or Georges Braque who produced in 1953 *Les Oiseaux*, a monumental painting intended for the ceiling of the Henri II room. Since the 2000s, the Louvre has revived this beautiful practice by regularly ordering new perennial decorations from major figures in contemporary art: Anselm Kiefer, in 2007, with his monumental painting *Athamor* accompanied by two sculptures, installed on the northeast staircase of the Cour Carrée; François Morellet, in 2010, with *The Spirit of Staircase*, a series of three stained glass windows designed for the Lefuel staircase, and, the same year, the *Ceiling* made by Cy Twombly in the Salle des Bronzes.



Elias Crespin, Simulation of *L'Onde du Midi* © Elias Crespin.
 Photo by Pascal Maillard

By Agathe Hakoun