

PRESS RELEASE

The Galerie Dina Vierny is pleased to present the exhibition *Byars/Sarin*, on view from March 19 to May 30, 2026, in its rue de Seine space. Two generations of artists enter into dialogue here for the first time, brought together by a shared fascination with the ritual dimension of art and with its capacity to forge a connection with the sacred.

The exhibition forms part of a reflection on contemporary expressions of the sacred and the persistence of ritual within sculptural practices, confronting two artistic approaches that, through their differences, illuminate shared concerns. Their dialogue reveals a fertile field of tensions, where form, the ritualization of gesture, and questions surrounding the very conditions of the artwork's appearance intersect. Shaped by distinct historical and artistic contexts, each artist's work reflects a search for essential and primordial forms, in which the legacy of the past resonates with contemporary sensibility.

James Lee Byars sought absolute perfection through refined works in which notions of disappearance and inaccessibility lend the object an almost mystical aura. His minimalist and conceptual language invokes timeless archetypes, playing on the ambiguity between presence and erasure. Executed in precious materials, his works establish an almost mystical relationship between object, space, and viewer.

Edgar Sarin is interested in the persistence of forms and their reactivation within a contemporary context. Rather than erasing traces of the past, he incorporates them into a dynamic of transmission, questioning how ancient symbols may still carry meaning today. Wood, clay, stone, and beeswax become the supports for a reflection on the memory of forms, transmission, and the slow transformation of matter. His work also invokes the dimension of the anonymous and naïve gesture, akin to certain votive traditions: much like ex-votos, these simple forms carry a symbolic and spiritual charge, as if reaching upward in an attempt at elevation or an address to the sky. In this way, he reactivates ancient archetypes within a contemporary dynamic, poised between sculptural archaism and ritual gesture.

Both artists share an approach in which the artwork surpasses its simple materiality to become a space for reflection and revelation, oscillating between enigma and evidence, permanence and ephemerality. Their dialogue around essential forms and ancient references invites the viewer into a contemplative experience, poised between presence and disappearance, permanence and invisibility.

BIOGRAPHIES

James Lee Byars (1932–1997)

A major figure of the conceptual and minimalist scene, James Lee Byars developed a singular body of work combining performance, sculpture, drawing, and installation. Living and working primarily in the United States and Europe, he was deeply influenced by Eastern philosophy and the aesthetics of the sacred, pursuing a radical quest for perfection and the absolute. His work, recognized for its ritual and conceptual dimension, is held in numerous international collections, including those of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Modern Art, and the Centre Pompidou.

Edgar Sarin (born 1989)

Edgar Sarin lives and works in Paris. His sculptural practice focuses on the persistence of forms and collective memory, emphasizing the value of the anonymous and simple gesture, close to certain popular or votive traditions in which emotion and intention lie at the heart of the creative process. In 2016, he received the EMERIGE Revelations Prize. In 2024, he was awarded the Pierre Cardin Sculpture Prize by the Académie des Beaux-Arts. That same year, two of his works entered the collections of the Centre Pompidou, and he inaugurated his first permanent public commission: a monumental bronze installed in the city of Le Havre.

Works by Edgar Sarin are held in numerous institutional collections, including the Musée Maillol, the Collection Lambert, and the Zhi Art Museum in Chengdu.

The Galerie Dina Vierny warmly thanks the galleries Michael Werner Gallery and Galerie Michel Rein for their invaluable assistance in the realization of this exhibition.

PRESS IMAGES :



Edgar Sarin, *Héroïque égyptienne*, 2026, Bronze, photographiée à la fonderie Godard ©Jean vayssié