



HOME

WHAT'S ON  
EDITORIAL  
VIDEO  
GALLERIES  
ARCHIVE

MY SHORTLIST +

ABOUT  
SUBSCRIBE  
CONTACT



[BACK TO EDITORIAL](#)



Hubert Duprat, (Nérac, France, 1957), *Trichoptera larva with case*, 1980-2000. Photographer :Frédéric Delpech. Image courtesy of the artist and Art:Concept gallery, Paris and MONA Museum of Old and New Art.

PREVIEW

## Hubert Duprat

by [Dylan Rainforth](#) | Posted 07 Dec 2013

Aquatic caddisfly larvae make their protective metamorphic sheaths from silk thread, stones, twigs, leaves and whatever else is available. But take those things away and give them grains of gold dust, pearls, rubies and diamonds and they're quite happy to get on with the job. That's what French artist Hubert Duprat has been doing since 1983, among making other sculptural works that similarly evoke the nexus between art, science and nature. "The work is a collaborative effort between me and the caddis larvae; I create the conditions necessary for the caddis to display their talents," Duprat has said.

Science, biology and organic processes are subjects dear to the hearts of MONA and its founder David Walsh. Ongoing exhibition *The Red Queen*, which ends 21 April, takes Lewis Carroll's character and her habit of running but never passing anything as a his other sculptural creations. "Materials not metaphor for evolutionary behaviour to ask: is art just a biological impulse?"

Which Duprat's caddisflies perhaps suggest. "Hubert Duprat co-opts nature in his art. He uses caddisflies to make his art. But they don't make his art, they make their art," Walsh says. MONA senior curator Olivier Varenne sees a parallel between the caddisfly works and Duprat's use of skilled craftsmen to realise his other sculptural creations. "Materials not usually found in 'fine art' – ranging from modelling clay to crystals – are employed to create improbable forms. His great interest in natural phenomena and his vast knowledge are combined to create art that is truly unique," Varenne says. The exhibition forms part of the *MONA FOMA* festival, which runs from 15 to 19 January.

Watch a video detailing Duprat's processes [here](#).

**Hubert Duprat**  
**[Museum of Old and New Art](#)**  
7 December 2013 - 21 April 2014.

**MORE ARTICLES**

Nicholas Mangan  
Photography by Jake Walker  
05 Sep 2013

Emily Hunt  
by Tracey Clement  
13 Dec 2013

Transit  
by Toby Fehily  
14 Jan 2014



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Case of Trichopteralarva*, 1980-2012, Gold, opal, 0,4 x 1,8 cm. Private Collection, USA. Photo : Fabrice Gousset. Image courtesy of the artist and Art:Concept gallery, Paris and MONA Museum of Old and New Art.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Case of Trichopteralarva*, 1980-1998, Gold, turquoise, 0,5 x 1,7 cm. Photo : Fabrice Gousset. Image courtesy of the artist and Art:Concept gallery, Paris and MONA Museum of Old and New Art.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Corail-Costa Brava*, 1994-1998, Coral and bread dough, approx diameter 25 cm. Collection Frac Franche Comté, ADAGP. Picture Credit: F. Delpech.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Sans titre (Untitled)*, 2013, Polyurethane foam and flints, height 39 3/8 x length 27 1/2 x depth 7 1/8 inch. ADAGP, PhotoF.Gousset. Image courtesy of Art : Concept, Paris and MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania Australia.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Sans titre (Untitled)*, 2013, Polyurethane foam and flints, Height 39 3/8 x length 27 1/2 x depth 7 1/8 inch. ADAGP, photoF.Gousset. Image

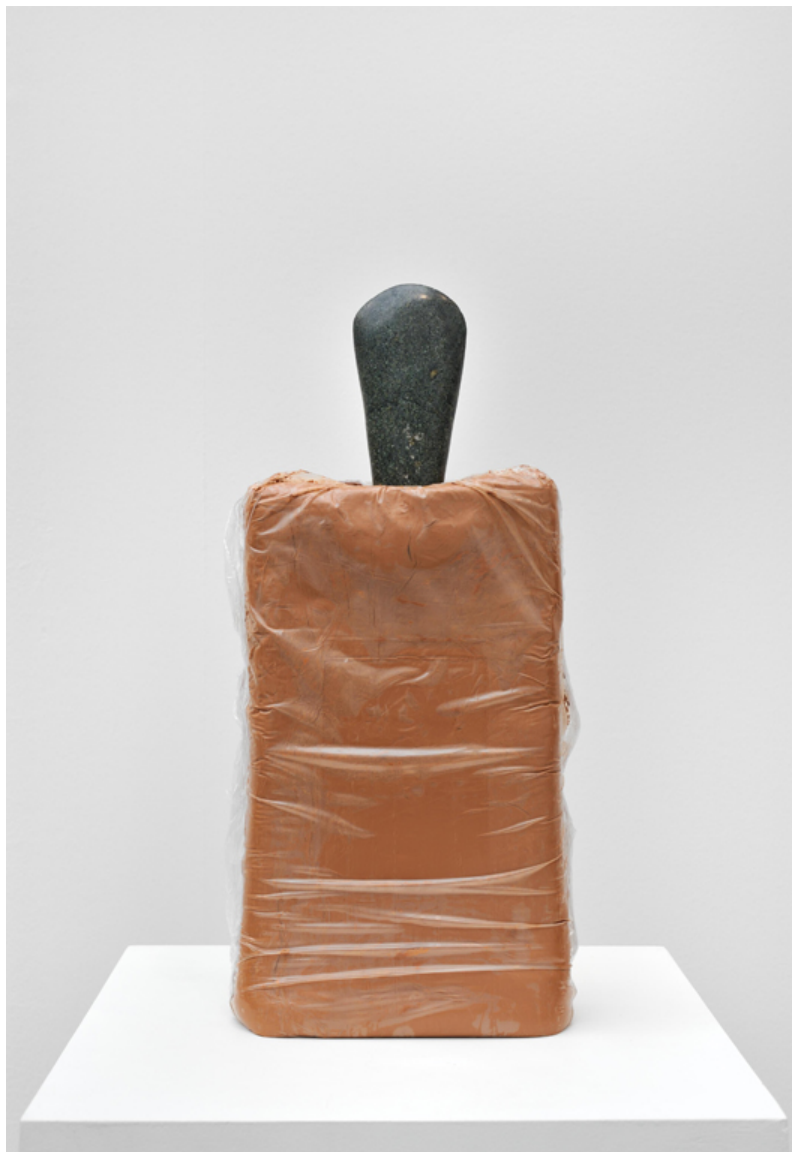
courtesy Art : Concept, Paris and MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Australia.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Sans titre (Untitled)*, 2007-2012, Pyrite crystal, glue, 45 x 48 x 48 cm. Private collection New York ADAGP, Photo F. Gousset. Courtesy Art : Concept, Paris.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Sans titre (Untitled)*, 2007-2012, Pyrite crystal, glue, 45 x 48 x 48 cm. Private collection New York ADAGP, Photo F. Gousset. Courtesy Art : Concept, Paris.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Sans titre (Untitled)*, 2013, Polished axe, clay, height 48 cm/ 18 7/8 in., width 20 cm/ 7 7/8 in., thickness 5 cm/ 2 in. ADAGP. Photo F.Gousset, courtesy Art : Concept, Paris.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Untitled*, 2008, Calcite crystals, glue, Height 100cm, diameter 80 cm. Collection Frac Limousin, Limoges, ADAGP, photo F.Delpech. Image courtesy of the artist and MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Untitled*, 2008, Calcite crystals, glue, Height 100cm, diameter 80 cm. Collection Frac Limousin, Limoges, ADAGP, photo F.Delpech. Image courtesy of the artist and MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Untitled*, 2008, 200 000 magnetites, Height 85 cm, diameter 250 cm. Collection Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris, ADAGP, photo F. Delpech. Courtesy of the artist and MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.



Hubert Duprat (Born 1957, Nérac, France; lives and works in southern France), *Untitled*, 2008, 200 000 magnetites, Height 85 cm, diameter 250 cm. Collection Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris, ADAGP, photo F. Delpech. Courtesy of the artist and MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

+1

0



Like

159

PRINT EMAIL TEXT SIZE AA

[PREVIOUS ARTICLE](#)

[NEXT ARTICLE](#)

[Partners](#)

[Contact](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)



[Sign up to our Newsletter](#)

© 2013 Art Guide Australia

Website by fatfish