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**JUNE 27**  
**SEPTEMBER 28**

# **STERLING RUBY**

Press release

**MAMO BY ORA-ÏTO**  
**ART CENTER OF**  
**THE CITÉ RADIEUSE**

280 Boulevard Michelet,  
13008 Marseille

Sterling Ruby, *DOUBLE CANDLE*, 2018 (detail)  
Patinated Bronze, 292 × 72 × 32 pouces (741.7 × 182.9 × 81.3 cm), Ed. 2/3 + 1 AP

© Sterling Ruby  
Courtesy Sterling Ruby Studio and Gagosian

# STERLING RUBY



Sterling Ruby (born in 1972, American/Dutch) lives and works in Los Angeles. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Master of Fine Arts from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. His multidisciplinary practice includes sculpture, painting, ceramics, photography, and installation. Ruby's works are included in numerous museum collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, Museum of Modern Art in New York, Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Tate in London, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Belvedere Museum in Vienna, Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, Institute of Contemporary Art in Miami, and Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas.

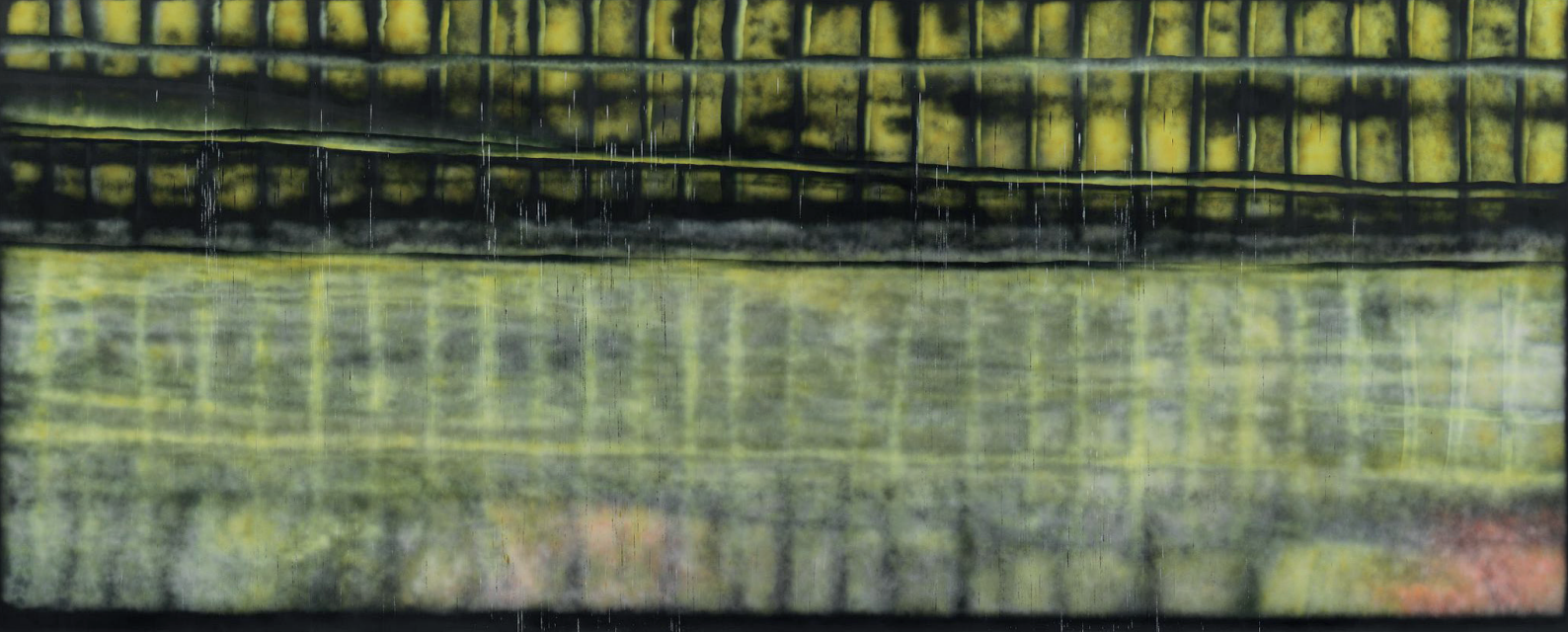


## STERLING RUBY AT LA CITÉ RADIEUSE

MaMo by Ora ĩto, a contemporary art platform located at Le Corbusier's Cité Radieuse in Marseille, presents an installation consisting of a major sculpture and a rarely exhibited painting by Sterling Ruby. A decade in preparation, this project brings together Ruby's monumental sculpture *DOUBLE CANDLE* (2018) and his largest spray painting, *WALL* (2017). The exhibition places Ruby's landmark works into remarkable dialogue with one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most radical architectural achievements. The exhibition will be on view from June 27 to September 28. Ruby has been described by critic Roberta Smith, in *The New York Times*, as "one of the most interesting artists of this century," —underscoring the breadth and urgency of his practice. For Ruby —an artist based in Los Angeles whose work has long explored material transformation, social structures, and the built environment —this exhibition presents a rare opportunity to engage deeply with the cultural and symbolic heritage of La Cité Radieuse, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Installed on the rooftop of Le Corbusier's brutalist «vertical city,» *DOUBLE CANDLE* consists of two bronze forms each over seven meters tall. Originally conceived as soft sculptures made from Polyfleece, the bronze candles retain visible seams and folds from the fabric. The sculpture shares its green-blue patina with oxidized monuments such as the Statue of Liberty, giving the work a serene gravity. Ruby has described the dual forms candles, towers, or sentinels in terms of domestic ritual and collective memory, subtly referencing the Twin Towers of New York and their legacy of loss and resilience. An earlier edition is part of the permanent collection at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC. In Marseille, the presentation of this significant sculpture alters its perception by juxtaposing bronze casts made from stuffed textiles with the raw concrete of the brutalist structure. Its undulating form echoes the unique sculptural chimneys of the building, reorienting the symbolism of the beacon toward the city.

Also on view at MaMo by Ora ĩto is *WALL* (2017), the largest painting from Ruby's SP (Spray Painting) series. Spanning over seven meters wide, the canvas comprises layered bands, lines, and drips of diffused colors. The recurring use of the horizon line a formal device that anchors the viewer while the hazy geometries of the composition simultaneously disorient evokes fences, atmospheric landscapes, or smoggy urban walls. Echoing the tradition of landscape painting, Ruby confronts viewers with a contemporary world in flux, reflecting the lineage of artists who turned to the south of France in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century such as Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh, and Paul Signac drawn by its unique light and expansive panoramas.



However, Ruby's landscapes are refracted through the lens of urban decay and ecological anxiety, reinterpreting this legacy for the twenty-first century. The artist's sensitivity to color resonates deeply here, his patinas and atmospheres engage in a visual dialogue with Le Corbusier's color theory and the polychrome building, in which color is used as a spatial and emotional tool. Similar works from the SP series can be found in major public collections, including the Tate in London, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

The juxtaposition of *DOUBLE CANDLE* and *WALL* creates an intense conversation with La Cité Radieuse itself, a structure conceived as a model for post-war community living. Ruby's interventions respond not only to its formal architecture but also to the layered identity of Marseille as a Mediterranean port shaped by movement, memory, and reinvention.

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Pasadena, California. His multimedia practice includes sculpture, painting, ceramics, photography, and installation. Ruby's works are part of numerous museum collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Tate in London, Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Moderna Museet in Stockholm. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Miami, Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, and the Belvedere Museum in Vienna.

**MaMo by Ora İto** : In 2013, French designer Ora İto founded MaMo (Marseille Modulor) in the former gymnasium perched atop Le Corbusier's Cité Radieuse in Marseille. Designed by Le Corbusier and completed in 1952, La Cité Radieuse is a pioneering model of post-war modernist architecture and urban planning. Conceived as a «vertical city,» the building includes 337 duplex apartments along interior corridors, as well as a school, hotel, shops, and rooftop terrace, integrating daily life into a single structure. Based on Le Corbusier's Modulor system, which harmonizes architecture with human proportions, the structure promotes community, functionality, and the union of body and

space. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it remains a living monument to radical architectural thought and continues to inspire artists, architects, and urban planners worldwide. MaMo by Ora İto has renewed the original spirit of innovation and cultural exchange of the site. Presenting renowned artists such as Daniel Buren, Jean-Pierre Raynaud, and Xavier Veilhan, it has become a cornerstone of Marseille's cultural scene, connecting the city to the global contemporary art network.

*THE MOUNTAIN*, an exhibition of new works by Ruby, will be presented at Gagosian Gallery and other venues in Gstaad, Switzerland, from July 11 to September 7.

The exhibition is organized in collaboration with Gagosian and made possible through the generous support of Zara Home.

Sterling Ruby  
*WALL*, 2017  
Spray paint on synthetic canva  
112 x 278 inches (284.5 x 706.1 cm)  
© Sterling Ruby  
Photo : Rob McKeever  
Courtesy Gagosian

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June 27 — September 28

**MaMo by Ora ĭto**, Art Center of the Cité Radieuse  
280 Boulevard Michelet, 13008 Marseille

**Dezarts Agency**

agence@dezarts.fr

+33 1 44 61 10 53

**Anais Fritsch**

+33 6 62 09 43 63

**Flora Rosset**

+33 6 41 29 54 53



**GAGOSIAN**

**ora ĭto**

**ZARHOME**