



**N. VROUYR**  
ANNO 1917



**Jules Lismonde (Anderlecht 14/05/1908 - Linkebeek 21/03/2001)**

### **Roi Soleil 1/3**

Circa: 1973

This tapestry was designed in 1973 by Jules Lismonde. In his notes he refers to it as TPP or PP, i.e. Tapestry for the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, as the work was commissioned by BNP Paribas Amsterdam. The sketch of the rug is no 2876. The original (the large format which will be presented at Brafa 2024) was made by the Destombes carpet workshop in Courtrai and was followed by two smaller format copies. They date from 1974 and 1975.

In an article entitled "Vibrations Spatiales" published in "Art et Culture" in April 1992, painter and art critic Jo Dustin commented on the artist's work as follows: "It was in sketching tapestries that Lismonde returned to the chromatic flavour from 1962 onwards. The very matrix of these preliminary drawings is a result of the signs he decants. The 1973 Le Roi Soleil is a dark, bursting bloom that activates multiple reds, carmines and warm mauves. And the wool here sings like a wonderfully shifting wild coat."

Literature: Lismonde et la tapisserie; Maison Lismonde

### **Artist description:**

Jules Lismonde was born in Anderlecht on 14 May 1908. His parents used to draw and paint. He started drawing himself since childhood. In addition, he studied music and became an excellent flautist. In 1924 he began his studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels. Soon he was tired of oil paintings and color schemes and his full interest went to drawings and to the purity of black and white. As a talented portraitist, he also made a series of portraits of prominent figures from the intellectual and literary circles of the 1930s-40s. He also produced carpets, stained glass windows and a sculpture to

be seen in a Brussels metro station. In 1945 he was involved in the founding of the movement of the "Young Belgian Painters" and in the group "Cap d'Encre". In 1953, his talent was also officially recognized by the organization of a major exhibition at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels. Around 1958, the observation of landscapes or cityscapes led him to abstract art and also to the works from his mature period which led to international fame. Participations followed in the Venice and São Paulo Biennales and in the Lugano Biennale for works in black and white. In addition, retrospective exhibitions were organized in Amsterdam, in the Royal Museums of Fine Arts in Brussels (1977), in Liège and in 1992 in the cultural center De Kruidtuin in Brussels. He was one of the rare Belgian artists who gained international fame with an oeuvre that is mainly black and white and characterized by a compelling play of shadow and light. Lismonde has given the drawing a rarely equalled monumental dimension. He died on March 12, 2001. The beautiful villa "Les Roches" in Linkebeek, where he spent most of his life, houses the foundation "Maison Lismonde" and ensures that his works continue to exist.