

A photograph of a rocky coastline. A large, dark, rounded rock is being moved or held in place by several thick yellow ropes that are stretched across the scene. The ropes are anchored to various points, including the ground and other rocks. The background features a tall, textured rock wall on the left and a clear blue sky. The foreground is a sandy and rocky beach.

paul frank wagner
TANGLED

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SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

1970 Born in Paris, Feb. 27, 1970

1991 *Rock Installation* (cover), Washing Machine, St. Barths, FWI

2005 *NYU Broadway Windows*, New York, NY USA

2005 *30 Ways To Do a Painting*, Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati OH. USA

2009 Scope Miami Beach, Solo Exhibition with Grey Gallery & LHP Productions. FL. USA

2014 *For the Animals in the Forest*, Sologne, France - Award from Art Slant

2014 *Intersections*, Paris, France

2017 Author of *Sticks & Stones* Contemporary Art Curriculum, San Francisco, CA. USA

INTRODUCTION

Paul Frank Wagner is a French born, New York City raised contemporary artist. He is also the co-founder of Hoopla Education, an education company specialised in sustainability, with projects running in 16 countries.

Paul's life long relationship with the ocean dates back to 1975, when his parents first brought him to St. Barth's. He has visited the island many times and created his first installations in nature in 1991 using nylon ropes in the natural landscape of *Washing Machine*, a well known spot for bodysurf.

Paul was exposed to modern and contemporary art in his youth, having grown up in NYC in the late 1970's to 1980's. As a teenager, he met many well known artists like Bernar Venet, Arman, and Christo which nurtured in him a real passion for Conceptual Art, American Minimalism, and paved the path to his first solo exhibition at *NYU Broadway Windows* in 2005.

In 2009, Arnauld Lapierre and Grey Gallery Monaco presented his work to the art world at **Scope Miami** part of Art Basel Miami Beach show with a solo exhibition of 100 Rope Paintings.

In 2013, with the birth of his youngest son, Paul turned his passion to arts education, running Contemporary Art workshops around the world. During this time, his art practice was mainly focused on ink drawings and process driven works. He wrote **Sticks & Stones** during his stay in Sardinia, as a way to bring Land Art, Environmental Art, American Minimalism and Conceptual Art to children starting from age 3. From 2017 to 2019 he launched the curriculum in San Francisco as a way to reconnect children with nature and the aesthetics.

Today, Paul lives and works in Monza Italy, where he weaves sticks, stones, rope and natural materials into his art practice.





Scope Miami Beach, 2009

I kept the wood frame of traditional paintings and replaced the canvas and paint with dyed ropes. These 3-Dimensional wall reliefs are an exploration of colour and texture with imagination and unconventional knots. I coined them rope paintings and began creating them as suspended installations.

In 2009, Arnauld Lapierre and Grey Gallery approached me to create a series of 100 rope paintings for a solo exhibition at the Scope Art Fair part of Art Basel Miami Beach 2009 Edition.



Rope Painting #004
Jutte Rope & White Nylon Rope on wood frame
Dim. 120 cm x 120cm
Private Collection



With *Intersections*, Paul built a story using 14 different pieces of nylon rope, which he dyed in the 14 corresponding colours of the Parisian Metro lines.

It was the story of ropes that travelled through Paris and intersected at the ***Cloître des Billettes*** in the Marais. The installation was suspended by the 14 columns of the cloister and was created as a live performance, as sound bites of the city were played, and where it remained suspended for two weeks in May 2014.

bottom right:
Intersections Installation, Paris, France 2014.



right page:
Intersections Rope Painting, 2014.
Rope, Metal Frame
Dim. 34cm x 34cm







35 Knots to the East, rope painting, 2013.
Dyed orange & blue nylon ropes + steel frame
Dim. 34 cm x 34 cm

Left:
Installation on the Bosphorus, Istanbul, Turkey

STONES

Paul Frank Wagner's work with stones draws inspiration from his time in Sardinia, where he began grounding his work and where he also authored Sticks & Stones art curriculum, a reflection on contemporary rural life inspired by Land Art and Environmental Art movements that are so relevant to today's issues on climate change. Paul's desire to have children play with natural materials like stones is in direct response to the tangible influences of modern day life that have affected everyone's lifestyle, young and old.

Paul reminds us of the urgency to positively act on our planet by binding his stones vigorously with ropes. Paul strives to make sense of our passage on Earth, trying to make it as meaningful as possible. The work is a contrast between natural beauty and concept. The feeling of urgency for climate change is calmed by the underlying knowledge that nature will prevail no matter how negative our impact on it.



Sardinia, 2016



Oregon, 2018



Maui, 2019



Tangled, 2019.
stones, rope, wood.
Dim. 30cm x 30cm



Untitled, 2019.
Rope, Stones, Bamboo.
Dim. 40 cm x 40 cm



Untitled, 2018.
Cement, Brick, Rope, Stones, wire.
Dim. 18cm x 10cm x 12cm

Works on paper



Berkeley, 2018



California, 2017



Sardinia, 2016.



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