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## **PRESSBOOK**

**Mia Fonnagrives Solow**  
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**Artsy**

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## A Descendant of Creative Royalty Shows Off Her Playful Side in a New Paris Solo Show

ARTSY



Mia Fonssagrives-Solow *Small Robots Series*, 2016 Galerie Agnès Monplaisir

Artistic inspiration came early for Mia Fonssagrives-Solow. Her stepfather was legendary fashion photographer Irving Penn. Her mother was Lisa Fonssagrives—the first supermodel, according to *Vogue*—and her father was French photographer Fernand Fonssagrives.

In this garden of creative delights, Fonssagrives-Solow blossomed into her own artist, sculptor, and jewelry designer. “From Mythology to Robots,” a new exhibition at Galerie Agnès Monplaisir in Paris, puts on display the many fruits of her creative output, especially as it relates to the history of her father’s French family.



Mia Fonssagrives-Solow *Apple*, 2015 Galerie Agnès Monplaisir

After all, her great-grandfather Capt. Jean-Baptist Fonssagrives brought the first pieces of early African art to Paris. Those works, including a sculpture of King Behazin of Dahomey, caught the attention of Picasso and several contemporaries. Today, the artworks are considered crucial to the development of modern art.



Mia Fonssagrives-Solow *Bucephalus*, 1978 Galerie Agnès Monplaisir

*“Mia Fonssagrives-Solow: From Mythology to Robots” is on view at Galerie Agnès Monplaisir, Paris, Oct. 14–Nov. 12, 2016.*

# ART SY



Mia Fonnagrives-Solow *Wooden Torsos Series 2* Galerie Agnès Monplaisir

It's no surprise, then, that Fonnagrives-Solow has a penchant for early African art, especially the depictions of King Behazin. In this latest show, her playful collection of contemporary sculpture and jewelry pays homage to classic masterpieces, not only from Africa, but also from Ancient Greece. But the inspirations don't end there: A master in wood and metal, Fonnagrives-Solow worked in bronze and aluminum to create Minotaurs and the titular robots.



Mia Fonnagrives-Solow  
*Moon Girl*, 2014  
Galerie Agnès Monplaisir



Mia Fonnagrives-Solow  
*Stefan the Minotaur*, 2016  
Galerie Agnès Monplaisir

Regardless of medium, Fonnagrives-Solow has always maintained a keen sense of humor, be it for a Spookbot, a Femmebot, or Stefan the Minotaur. She humanizes these mythological beasts and computer creatures, adding a colorful flair to her lively work. The robots, for instance, “are people in my life,” she has said. “They all have their quirky ways about them. They’re all characters!”

—Bridget Gleeson