



is presenting JANUS by Didier Guillon, a contemporary art exhibition  
at the Historical Museum of Hydra



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## Works of aesthetics

The mask, one of the three icons of Didier Guillon's artist.

With his scenography focused around an array of white masks, **Didier Guillon explores the notions of new beginnings and endings**, choices and passages. Baptized Janus as a tribute to the Romain God, his two-faced masks embody past and future opportunities, reflecting a perfect aesthetic.

Janus Bifrons is one of the earliest divinities of the ancient Latins and Romans, venerated since the dawn of the city of Rome. Depicted with two faces, one mirroring the other, Janus is the god of beginnings, doors, and passages.

After a Venetian exhibition during the collective installation at Palazzo Bonvicini in Venice, a staging in the luxurious Department Store Fondaco dei Tedeschi at the Serenissima, Fondation Valmont invests the first floor of the **Historical Archives Museum of Hydra, Greece**.



JANUS by Didier Guillon

Didier Guillon explains: "*In Greek mythology, Janus was the god of the ends, but more importantly, of beginnings. Why depict him with enormous two-faced white masks? Because they do not look towards the same direction. These masks are a metaphor of Venice itself, a marvelous city with two faces: that of a cosmopolitan and international city that looks toward the future, but also a cradle of culture and art with an eye on the past. Janus also represents man's fragility. These two enigmatic faces represent two personalities. I think that we all have two faces: a public face and a more hidden face. This duality shines through in my masks, which are not perfect, but deformed, as if human frailties were imprinted on their expressions.*"

## Fondation Valmont and the History Archives Museum of Hydra

The love story began almost 10 years ago, Didier Guillon, came to drop his bags and present the art collections of the Valmont Group during the summer period, a partnership with Dina Adamopoulou, the Director of the Museum.

This summer it is the artist who is invited to co-habit in the old walls of the museum which houses exhibitions that give an insight into the history of the island of Hydra in Greece and the role it played in the Greek war.

### Didier Guillon

Didier descends from a long lineage of major art contributors, throughout history: merchants such as Charles Sedelmeyer, sculptors, and art historians as Stanislas Lami. He takes pride in his filiation with emblematic sculptor and Egyptologist Alphonse Lami, whose father François was the illegitimate son of Francesco Borghese...

An artist himself, Didier Guillon draws from this phenomenal genealogy his passion for arts, as his profound bond with Italy... more specifically Venice. True to his nature, Didier Guillon exhilarates as he relentlessly works to fine-tune his ideas. He designed multiple works in various media, several dimensions, skillfully combining a wide array of materials. He likes to think of new ways to approach, discuss and appreciate contemporary art.



Didier Guillon in Morges

### Fondation Valmont: A Family Story

Passionate about art, Maxence Guillon will take in the future the helm of Fondation Valmont following his father's creative and artistic footsteps. A fil rouge that continues in the Guillon family. A symbolic handover in the name of devotion to art.



Didier and Maxence Guillon in Venice

*"In 2021, I'm moving to Venice to live at Palazzo Bonvicini and to dedicate myself exclusively to art" says Didier Guillon. "While my son, through Fondation Valmont, will work to spread and develop passion for beauty. Venice is a symbol of the world's fragility and must be preserved. Through art, we can send important messages about the protecting the environment and beauty, and of a new rebirth, that we would like to portray with the aesthetics of JANUS."*

The common thread that ties Fondation Valmont and Guillon's family is thus the link between Art and Beauty: beauty as symbolized by the cosmetic excellence displayed in the enchanting spaces of the Villa Valentine in Hydra, and the captivating and mysterious beauty of the JANUS masks. Venetian masks, two-faced masks that keep an eye on the past as they gaze toward the future. The prospective of a new beginning, of a new rebirth, that has never been more appropriate than in this particular moment.

The masks of each one of us.

As from July 2nd to August 31st, 2021 - Open every day / Free entry

Historical Museum of Hydra

Located on the east side of the harbor

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