



PRESS RELEASE
OCTOBER 2023



VALMONT

presents



IVO
IN TANZANIA

by Didier Guillon

A contemporary art exhibition in collaboration with Fondation Valmont

GINZA SIX, 6 CHOME-10-1 GINZA
CHUO CITY, TOKYO- TSUTAYA BOOKS FLOOR

9 - 15 November 2023

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Ivo. The infinite journey of a free gorilla.



Sebastian Nidlich
Ivo the gorilla at Berlin Zoo

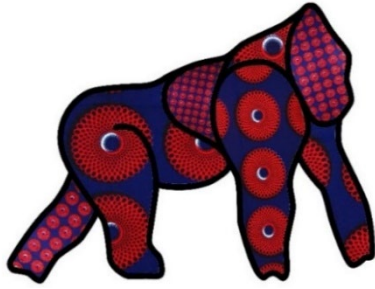
The journey of Ivo, the artistic reinterpretation of the emblematic Berlin Zoo gorilla, continues to expand towards new horizons. After Morocco, South Africa and Korea, his African adventure will be presented this year in Tokyo, Japan, as part of the **Ivo in Tanzania** exhibition.

For the occasion, Ivo is taking over Ginza Six, the most prestigious shopping complex in the Ginza district, **from 9 to 15 November**. Alliance of luxury shopping and contemporary art, for a few days it will be transformed into a must-see destination in the traditional colours of Tanzania, for creativity, storytelling and cultural dialogue's lovers.

Ever since Valentine, Didier Guillon's youngest daughter, visited Berlin Zoo at the age of 16, Ivo has become an enduring source of wonder and emotion. It has given Valentine's father a taste for imagining the impossible, and a burning desire to see the elegant animal freed from captivity and allowed to live beyond the confines of its cages.

Through his various artistic metamorphoses, Ivo the colorful angular gorilla celebrates freedom more than ever and, he is seeing himself reinterpreted by Didier Guillon, who constantly adorns him with new motifs.

So, **Tanzania** it is ! A land of multiple influences with a strong inheritance. A cultural crossroads where the heritage consists of majestic architecture, ancestral skills, and traditional fabrics.



Ivo in Tanzania, silkscreen 1,
120x80 cm

By reappropriating Tanzanian fabrics, Ivo embodies the meeting of Arab, African, and Oriental cultures characterising this country. **Kitenge**, a cotton fabric created by Tanzanian women and adorned with elaborate, densely structured patterns, is used for women's loincloths.

Part of African history since the mid-nineteenth century, it is a symbol of both traditional design and contemporary innovation. And while Kitenge tells the story of a nation through its fabrics, Ivo in Tanzania celebrates its heritage beyond its borders.

Ivo in Tanzania and Ginza Six, an obvious choice



Sybilla Patrizia, Ginza Six

Welcome to **Ginza Six**. An exceptional combination of high-end shopping, local Japanese culture, and global contemporary art. Behind the walls imagined by visionary architect Yoshio Taniguchi, lies a destination designed for a completely different experience. Common areas designed by

Gwenaël Nicolas, shops and restaurants, a vast roof garden, contemporary art installations, a traditional Noh theatre and the magnificent **Tsutaya Books** bookshop.

It is here, in this space dominated by six-meter-high bookcases with a turret motif paying homage to Japanese architecture, that the works dedicated to Ivo will be exhibited. An opportunity for Valmont Japan and Fondation Valmont to illustrate more than ever the group's motto "**When Art**



meets Beauty". But also, to identify with Ginza Tsutaya Books' ambition to create a unique bridge between art and culture at first hand. To feel what's happening on the global art scene.

Hope, the film. A Ugandan exclusivity in Tokyo



Valentine and Didier Guillon

The immersion in the African atmosphere continues with the film **Hope**. A colourful and emotional inspiring journey to Uganda by Didier Guillon's daughter Valentine and French cameraman Cyril Ducottet, to meet the gorilla in its natural habitat. A documentary conceived in a diary form, moving away far from the cage sadness, seeing infinite landscapes, traditional rhythms and syncopated dances following one another. And of course: Ivo. An allegory of Ivo: free, happy and surrounded by his family. What is **hope** if not a young girl's desire for freedom?

When art meets beauty: from the exhibition to the Maison Valmont



As part of a long journey, the **Ivo in Tanzania** exhibition is also a window onto the Valmont's world. It is in the very heart of Ginza Six, on the B1F Floor, that the public will be welcomed by two giant silkscreen prints and will be able to push open the doors of **La Maison Valmont** to discover, in particular, new limited editions of Ivo.

A bridge where art meets beauty, to take full advantage of the incomparable experience offered by the pioneering brand in personalised health and beauty therapies. Combining natural richness and cutting-edge technology in its products, "Le Magicien du temps" will be taking the opportunity to unveil "**Essence of Beads**". An exceptional collection from the luxury range "l'ELIXIR DES GLACIERS". This original collection, combining the precious essence of the beehive with a unique complex, offers the skin intense nutrition, drawing on the unequalled power of bees. A way for Valmont to reinforce its commitment to bee conservation, which is one of the cornerstones of its sustainability mission.

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