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presents

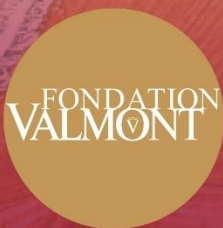
L'HOMME PENSANT

BY DIDIER GUILLOIN

01.06.2024 – 30.06.2024

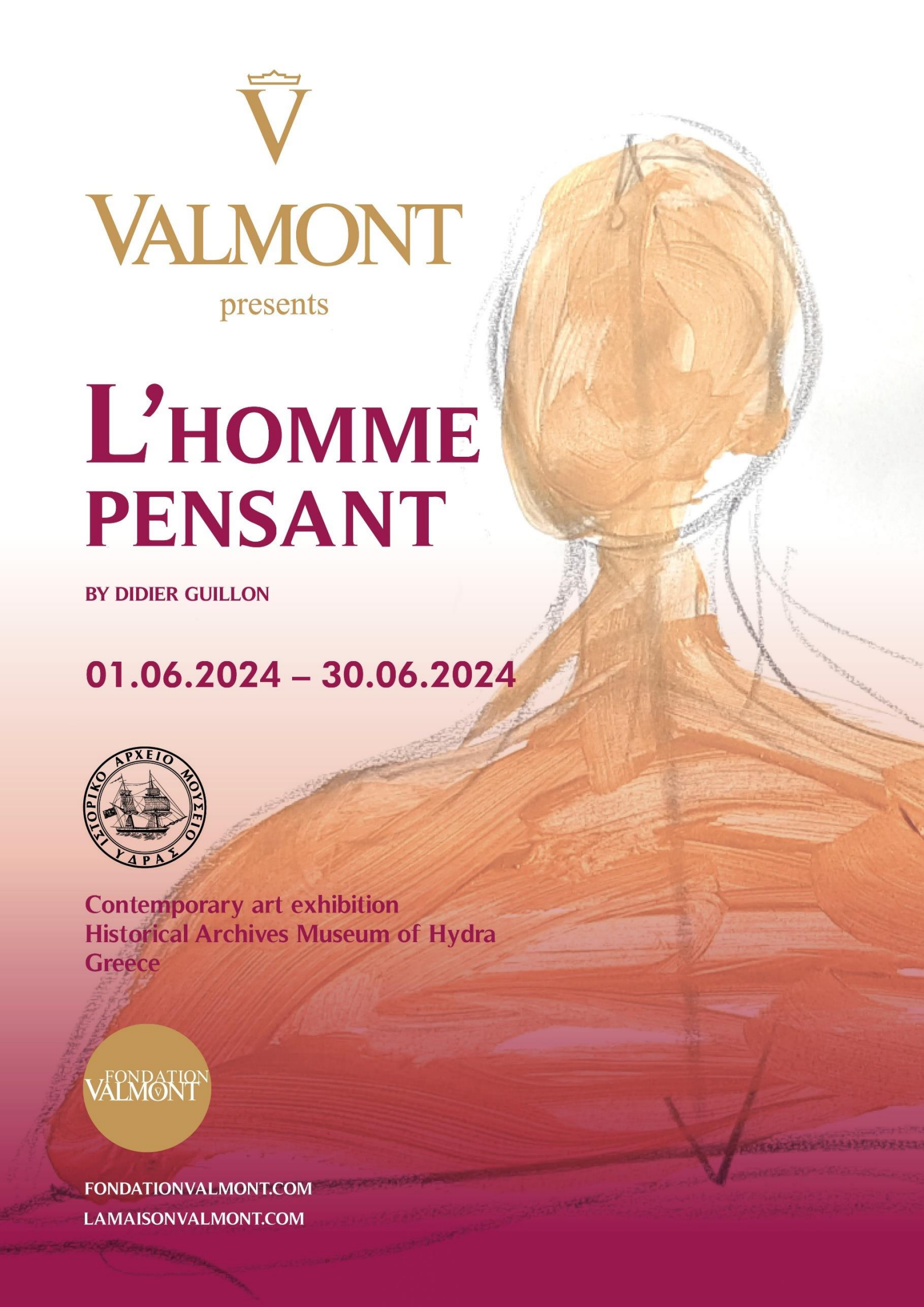


Contemporary art exhibition
Historical Archives Museum of Hydra
Greece



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L'HOMME PENSANT

A DIGRESSION ON BEAUTY

Directly from Venice, the installation named *L'Homme Pensant* land in Greece for the solo exhibition signed by Didier Guillon at the Historical Archive Museum of Hydra.

The sculptures have been previously showed during the international project EGO held at the Venetian Palazzo Bonvicini throughout 2023, together with other majestic artworks by Carles Valverde, Vangelis Kyris and Anatoli Georgiev.



As EGO came to an end a few months ago, Fondation Valmont transformed the artworks by Guillon into a solo show ready to travel, thus becoming one of the itinerant exhibitions 2024 destined to touch the ground of many exclusive locations. For a deeper dive into the topic of this project, please find here below the statement of Didier Guillon on his installation.

Art is the idea we have of beauty speaking to the senses and emotions. The artist is the person who has a sense of beauty and can create a work of art. Ego is the self-awareness of the artistic self, the source of inspiration for the creation of beauty. For the creation of *L'Homme Pensant*, I wanted to consider these definitions. It is a distorted representation of the beauty, the impossible outcome of creation, a kind of non-beauty. It had to be a kind of inner cry, an inner malaise, hence the distorted physique of the character of Ego. The installation entitled *L'Homme Pensant* is made up of ten sculptures representing the busts of screaming men. The idea is to reverse the notion of classical beauty: the artist, used to creating Beauty as his primary goal, is now called upon to represent the absence of beauty itself. As opposed to the traditional plaster cast galleries displaying pure white human figures, harmonic in features and proportions, these men are screaming, trapped in unknown bodies not recognized as theirs. Showered with gold paint, the busts are finally ennobled with a brand-new status.¹

¹ Didier Guillon, May 2022

A HISTORY TO BE PROUD OF: HISTORICAL ARCHIVES – MUSEUM OF HYDRA

L'Homme Pensant by Didier Guillon takes place in one of the most representative places of the Saronic island. Giving to historical memory such a strong highlight is one of the goals



Miaoulia 2023

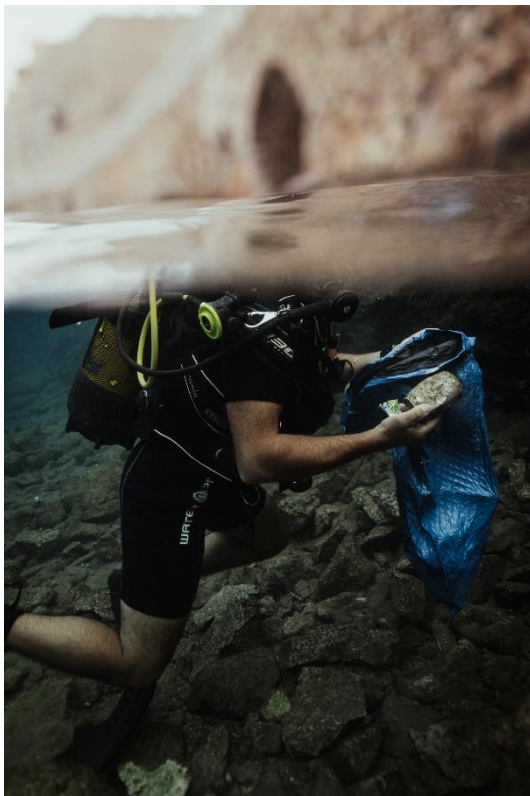
of the Historical Archives Museum of Hydra, together with locating, gathering, classifying, indexing, and publishing every kind of archive material related to Hydra, its local history, tradition and culture. The Museum, founded in 1918, displays among others the cultural treasures related to the **Greek War of Independence** started in 1821, for which both Greek and Hydriot victory is still object of wide celebrations such as the *Miaoulia*.



Historical Archives – Museum of Hydra

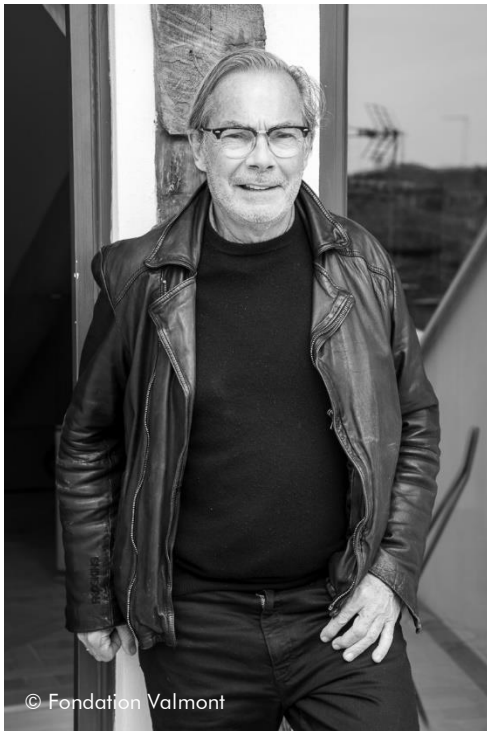
Not only art: BECAUSE WE CARE

A manifesto to declare the importance of the environment



Fondation Valmont is on a mission to protect our planet by carefully choosing low-impact materials for the exhibitions and always involving local suppliers. These actions are especially (but not only) undertaken in cities like Venice and Hydra, where Fondation Valmont regularly holds its projects. On the occasion of the exhibition *L'Homme Pensant*, Fondation Valmont takes the opportunity to put an action in place: the cleaning up of the port, tackling the visible problem of plastic waste that plagues our environment. While this might not fix the root causes, it serves as a loud and clear call to action, a *manifesto*: a call to arms for global citizens to awaken to the urgency of our environmental responsibilities.

DIDIER GUILLON



Didier Guillon is the descendant of illustrious ancestors, including the sculptor Alphonse Lamy and the collector and art dealer Charles Sedelmeyer. Creating is an irresistible impulse, spurred by his inextinguishable curiosity. He muses through many mediums, such as serigraphy, illustration, cardboard-made or glass sculptures, with a particular fondness for mixed-media installations. Guillon's installations show a commitment to sustainability: made from environmentally friendly materials, much of his artwork is destroyed for recycling after traveling around the world for solo shows. A Venetian resident for more than a year, Guillon loves his city through and through. A complete care which emerges, among other things, in his desire to work with local artisans. Since 2013, the artist has

been deeply fascinated by the precious traditions that make up the identity of Murano glassmaking; he has been producing works of art in collaboration with renowned local master glassmakers ever since. Not only glass: Guillon's latest creations are produced together with local craftsmen. Bronze and brass are the materials which recently brought his research to imagine new shapes, now part of the artist's well-known repertoire. New experiments, then, always faithful to the heritage of Donald Judd and the American Minimalists so dear to Guillon, leading the artist to conceive imposing yet delicate cubist metamorphosis.

L'HOMME PENSANT BY DIDIER GUILLON A DIGRESSION ON BEAUTY

Historical Archives Museum of Hydra, Greece
June 1 – 30, 2024
Monday – Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm and 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

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