



Press release - Hope exhibition
April 2023


VALMONT
 presents
 2023 WORLDWIDE
 CONTEMPORARY
 ART EXHIBITION
16.05.23
 -
31.12.23




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l'ELIXIR
DES GLACIERS

STORIE
VENEZIANE
By VALMONT



Hope, the film exhibition at La Maison Valmont



First unveiled in Seoul during the *Ivo in Tanzania* exhibition, *Hope*, the movie, will be shown on May 16th, 2023. Not in one place, but in a simultaneous exhibition at Les Maisons Valmont. From Berlin, Munich, Paris, Madrid, New York to Milan, *Ivo* will be screened freely on every side of the globe. *Hope*, an emotional short film, tells the moving story of a 17-year-old girl, Valentine Guillon, travelling to Uganda to meet the gorilla in its natural habitat.

Ivo, an angular gorilla met a few years ago during a visit to the Berlin Zoo. *Ivo*, who was a source of both wonder and emotion for Valentine during a father-daughter trip in 2018. A young girl's wish came from this Berlin visit to see the elegant animal released from captivity. A father's desire to imagine the impossible to make him live beyond all cages. In this, *Hope* transforms *Ivo*'s freedom, and her message goes far beyond Uganda.

From Berlin's cramped cage to the impenetrable Bwindi Forest, *Ivo* returns to Berlin and demonstrates that through creativity it is sometimes only a step from captivity to freedom.

Hope, a story of explorers & dream catchers

Hope, an incredible immersion in the heart of Uganda's lush nature, tells Valentine's encounter story with the Habinyanja family's gorillas. A film in a diary form. A journey away from the cage sadness, where infinite landscapes, traditional rhythms and syncopated dances follow one another. And of course: *Ivo*. An allegory of *Ivo*, free, happy, and surrounded by his family.



For the past 4 years, *Ivo* became in turn Moroccan, South African, and Tanzanian through successive exhibitions. But with *Hope*, La Maison Valmont takes its visitors much further. A step further in the impenetrable Bwindi Forest discovery; the only place in the world where the three great primates, mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, and humans, live together on the same territory. A step further in this country discovery and its often-unknown culture, through unique colours, landscapes, sounds and fabrics. Closer to its women, its men, and their traditions.



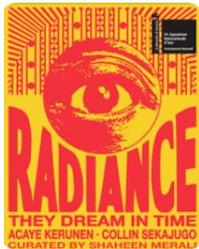
Hope, like a young girl's hope and desire for freedom. *Hope*, like a father's desire to see the spark in her eyes that the gorilla in the cage was missing.

Cyril Ducottet, cameraman & committed director

Director and cameraman Cyril Ducottet is one of those investing himself fully in each of the projects he accompanies. And *Hope's* project, perhaps even more so, has an exceptional resonance for him. Noticed for his short films and films: *Métamorphosa*, *Zamora* and *The Felistas Fable*, Cyril Ducottet has his very own characteristic of creating artworks where self-discovery, Africa, and symbolism predominate.

This is one of the reasons why the man who has lived in Uganda for many years has been able to turn *Hope* into a true ode to nature. The fauna and flora are sublimated in a hymn to Ugandan beauty, a song for freedom. In this way, *Hope* is a film going beyond the borders of its native story, to tell a much broader quest.

Uganda in the spotlight at the Venice Biennale



In 2022, the Venice Biennale welcomed Uganda for the first time in its history. For every nation participating in this international gathering, this represents a historic moment.

On this occasion, two artists from Kampala, Acaye Kerunen and Collin Sekajugo, presented their work in an exhibition entitled *Radiance - They Dream in Time* at Palazzo Palumbo Fossati. The exhibition won the Biennale's honorary prize, and one singular work touched Didier Guillon's heart. A work emblematic of Ugandan culture, colourful, woven and now on display at Palazzo Bonvicini, part of the Fondation Valmont in Venice.

With *Hope*, bonds unite, borders tend to disappear. Much more than a film, it is a stone in the building of a larger story, a story of encounters and chance. With *Hope* comes the inherent need for a cameraman, without whom Didier Guillon would never have met Cyril Ducottet. With the Biennial and the "première" from Uganda, new exchanges were born. Exchanges without which Didier Guillon would never have met Acaye Kerunen, nor known that she had collaborated with Cyril Ducottet in the past. As "il n'y a pas de hasard, il n'y a que des rendez-vous", (there are no coincidences, there are only appointments) Paul Éluard.



The cage, Didier Guillon's allegory

Hope exhibition goes along with the iconic cages designed by Didier Guillon, two to be precise. The first one, small, takes up Ivo's motifs from *The Elegant Symmetry of the Gorilla*. The cubic motif in primary colours is expressed joyfully, like a nose-thumbing at the object it covers. The second cage is built in opposition to the first one, although they are complementary. Large, it is adorned with an infinite number of Ivo's drawn in a single, strong, and straightforward line,

thus creating an interlacing of *White is Black* branches. Like an echo of the bewitching Bwindi Forest.

Made of assembled cardboard, they reflect two of La Maison Valmont's values: beauty and sustainability.

Hope can be seen at the following addresses:

La Maison Valmont **Berlin**
Fasanenstraße 72

La Maison Valmont **Munich**
Maximilianstraße 22

La Maison Valmont **Paris**
6 rue de Castiglione

La Maison Valmont **Madrid**
C. de Jorge Juan, 13

La Maison Valmont **New York**
35 E 76th St

Milan

Casa degli Artisti (only from 9 to 15 October)
Via Tommaso da Cazzaniga, Corso Garibaldi, 89/A

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