



VALMONT

presents

KIMIKO YOSHIDA

YOU
WON'T FORGET
HER!

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-
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ONE, NO ONE AND ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND

You Won't Forget Her!, a solo exhibition by Kimiko Yoshida, will be on view from June 1 to July 26, 2026 at the Historical Archives Museum of Hydra. This is the artist's first solo presentation on the island, promoted and organized by Fondation Valmont.

In Kimiko Yoshida's work, everything begins with a **transformation**. Her photographic self-portraits are not meant to describe who she is, but to move beyond it. Through make-up, costume and carefully chosen materials, she breathes life into new beings, inhabiting their shoes as her own.



Kimiko Yoshida, *Painting (Condottiere Micheletto da Cotignola at the Battle of San Romano by Paolo Uccello)*. Self-portrait, Archival pigment print on canvas, UV coating, 142 x 142 cm, 2010



Kimiko Yoshida, *Painting (Picasso's Minotaure)*. Self-portrait, Archival pigment print on canvas, UV coating, 142 x 142 cm, 2007-2010

Many of these images echo art history: famous paintings reappear, not as copies but as silent yet loud reinventions. Yoshida enters and absorbs them. The result is a suspended image, where past and present meet on the surface of the body. *Disguising* is essential: through her photographs and sculptures, she presents herself as *other* while remaining unmistakably recognisable.

There is no digital manipulation in her process, as what we see happens entirely in front of the camera. Colours, textures and layers are applied slowly, with precision, with her face becoming the place to work on, like a canvas.

Her practice can be seen alongside artists who have used their own image as a space of change: **Claude Cahun** dissolved the self into ambiguity; **Cindy Sherman** constructs identities through staging and disguise. Earlier still, **Virginia Oldoini di Castiglione** was the first woman to use photography to perform and reinvent her own image.



Pierre-Louis Pierson, *Scherzo di Follia: The Countess of Castiglione*, 1863-66

You Won't Forget Her! invites a slow encounter, for these are images that do not reveal everything at once but ask to be looked at, and then looked at again, leaving the spectator with a sense of wonder and marvel.

KIMIKO YOSHIDA



Kimiko Yoshida at Palazzo Bonvicini – The Intimate Museum, in her room *Après le Massacre, la Réconciliation*, for the exhibition *Penelope. Her Journeys*, 2026

Kimiko Yoshida was born in Japan, where she graduated at the University of Photography in Tokyo. She later moved to France, her adopted home, where her photographic practice began to take shape. First in Arles at the *École nationale supérieure de la photographie*, then in Paris where she enrolled on courses at the Louvre, and at Le Fresnoy – Studio national des arts contemporains in Tourcoing, where she expanded her artistic language while carrying with her the experience of working closely with Japanese fashion designers.

Her partner-in-crime and life is Jean-Michel Ribettes, French psychoanalyst and curator, friend among others with Roland Barthes. Through this proximity, Yoshida encountered a wide circle of European intellectuals, shaping a hybrid cultural identity where East and West meet and transform one another.

HYDRA, THE PLACE TO BE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART LOVERS

As from the mid-20th century, the Greek island of Hydra emerged as an international destination for the arts, where, despite its small scale, it still sustains a remarkably vibrant cultural ecosystem each summer. Further strengthened by Fondation Valmont's longstanding collaboration with the [Historical Archives Museum](#), hosting recurring exhibitions, Hydra holds particular significance to Valmont as the setting of [Villa Valentine](#), the [Résidence Valmont](#) overlooking the Aegean, serving as a vital platform for artistic production, dialogue, and cultural exchange, making Hydra truly *the place to be*.

You Won't Forget Her! by Kimiko Yoshida 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 of the [Historical Archives Museum of Hydra](#),



Hydra, Greece © Alex Moling

together with locating, gathering, classifying, indexing, and publishing every kind of archive material related to the island, 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*.

YOU WON'T FORGET HER!

Kimiko Yoshida

June 1 – July 26, 2026

open every day, 9 am – 1 pm / 5 pm – 9 pm

Historical Archives Museum of Hydra, Greece

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