

Press release

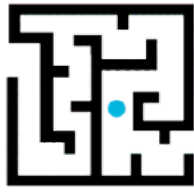
Paris, May 2019

HYam COMMITTS TO ART ON THE ISLAND OF HYDRA EACH SUMMER

Alternating with its biennial prize, which spotlights emerging art scenes within Mediterranean countries (Israel will be the focus of the 2020 edition), HYam will hand over *carte blanche* to a young French artist on the theme of insularity. The resulting work will be exhibited in a public space on the island throughout the summer

Summer 2019 :

"**Témoin**" (Witness), a video installation by **Nicolas Tourte**, the first French artist invited by HYam ● ● ● ● ●



HYam FURTHERS ITS COMMITMENT TO HYDRA!

- ● ● ● ● HYam was created in 2014 by French journalist **Pauline Simons** as a means of supporting emerging artists from Mediterranean countries, helping them gain better international visibility. The association is delighted to announce that its events on the island of Hydra **will now be annual, rather than biannual.**

Alternating with the prize, which every two years recognizes the work of a young artist from a Mediterranean country, HYam will now also offer **carte blanche to a French artist** who will create - with a budget of up to €10,000 - a work specially conceived for the public space in Hydra.

The first commission has been entrusted to artist **Nicolas Tourte**, and will be installed on **Makariou Square**, in the heart of the village, for a richly art-filled summer 2019 season.

CARTE BLANCHE

— Supporting french artistic creativity

- **Commission and production** of a work on the theme of insularity by a French artist, selected by HYam
- **Exhibition** of the work for the duration of the summer season, at the heart of the island of Hydra

THE HYam Prize

— An endowment in three key steps

- **A one-month residency** in Hydra
- **Creation and exhibition** of a work in Hydra's public space
- **A round table** relating to the selected regional scene, hosted by the auction house Artcurial in Paris

HYam IN THE PUBLIC SPACE IN HYDRA : KEY DATES

- July 2016** ***The New Green Part 2, The Expectation*** (1) an installation on Hydra's rocks by Maria Tsagkari, laureate of the first edition of the Prix HYam (spotlighting the emerging Greek/Cypriot scene).
- July 2018** ***Atlasouna***, (2) a sculpture-installation on Square Makariou by Abdelaziz Zerrou, laureate of the second edition of the Prix HYam (spotlighting the emerging Moroccan scene).
- July 2019** July 14 – Septembre 15, 2019
Témoïn (Witness), (3) a video installation by Nicolas Tourte, the first French artist invited by HYam to create a work for Hydra's public space.
- July 2020** HYam is delighted to announce that, following the spotlight on Greece/Cyprus and Morocco, **Israel has been selected as the country for the third edition** of the HYam Prize.



HYDRA

AN ISLAND OF ART & CULTURE

Located south of Athens, opposite the Peloponnese, Hydra offers a singular day-to-day experience. This pearl of the Saronic Gulf can only be traversed on foot, via mule or by water taxi. Cosmopolitan Hydra is a reference for international contemporary art, hosting quality exhibitions every summer in unique places like

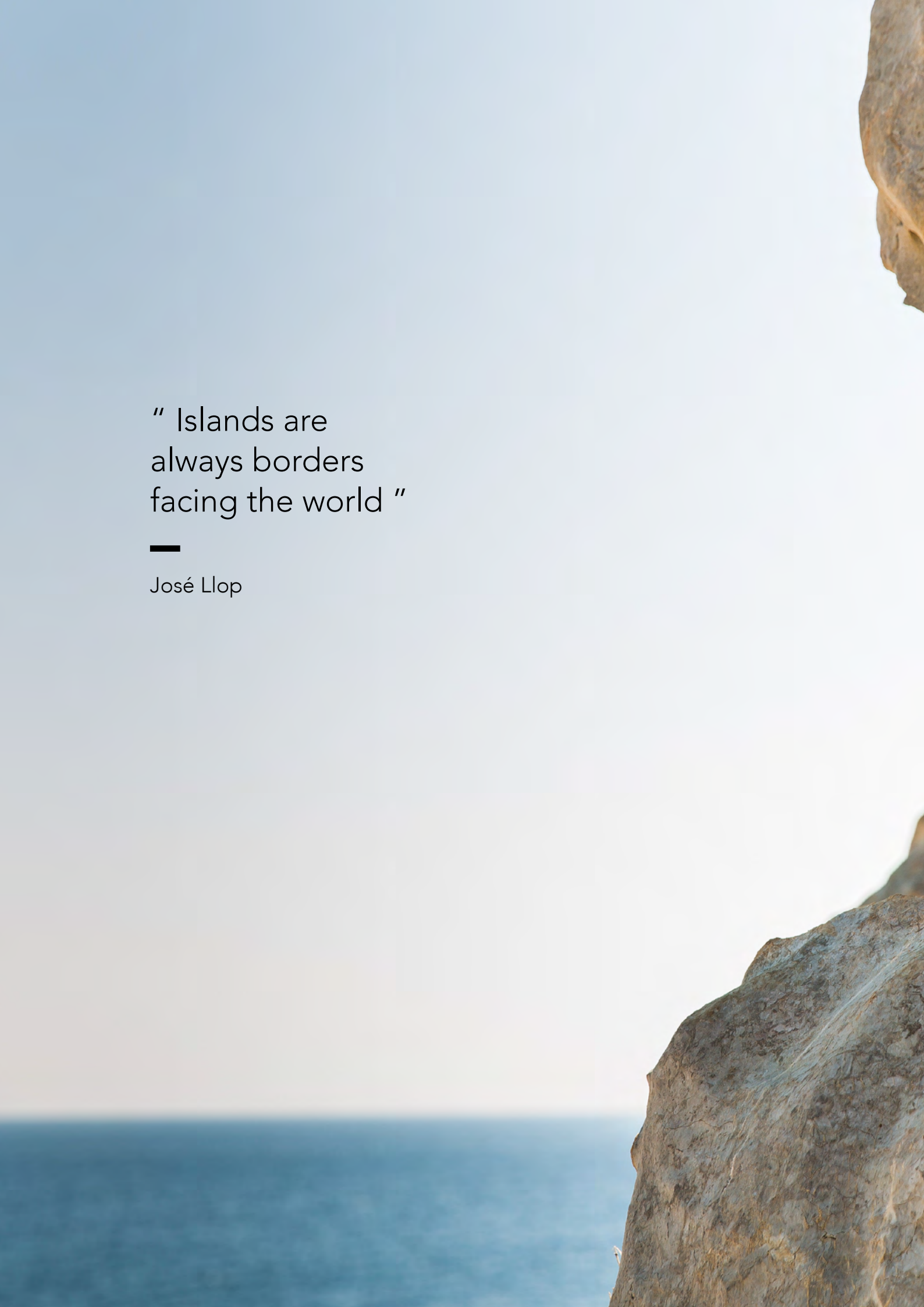
the old slaughterhouse (taken over in 2009 by collector **Dakis Ioannou** of the **Deste Foundation**) and the former high school where Dionysis Antonitsis - supported by Dimitri Daskalopoulos of the **NEON foundation** - organizes group exhibitions dedicated to the young international scene. The local **Hydra Historical Museum** has been gradually perfecting its contemporary art programming.

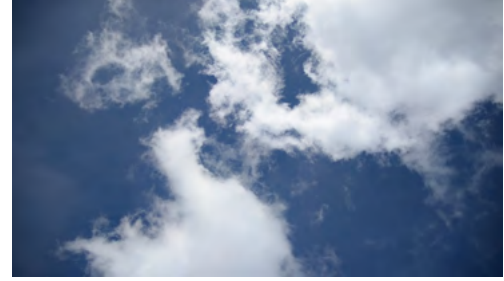
This year, the **Deste Foundation** has entrusted **Kiki Smith** to create a "lived in" experience in the former slaughterhouse, which overlooks the sea. The **Hydra Historical Museum** will honor the work of French photographer **Pascal Blondeau** with the exhibition "**Pars... Et ne te retourne pas**" ("Leave ... And Don't Look Back") and pay tribute to **David Hockney**. It will also welcome a select retrospective of the famous Greek painter **Nico Stefanou**.

“ Islands are
always borders
facing the world ”

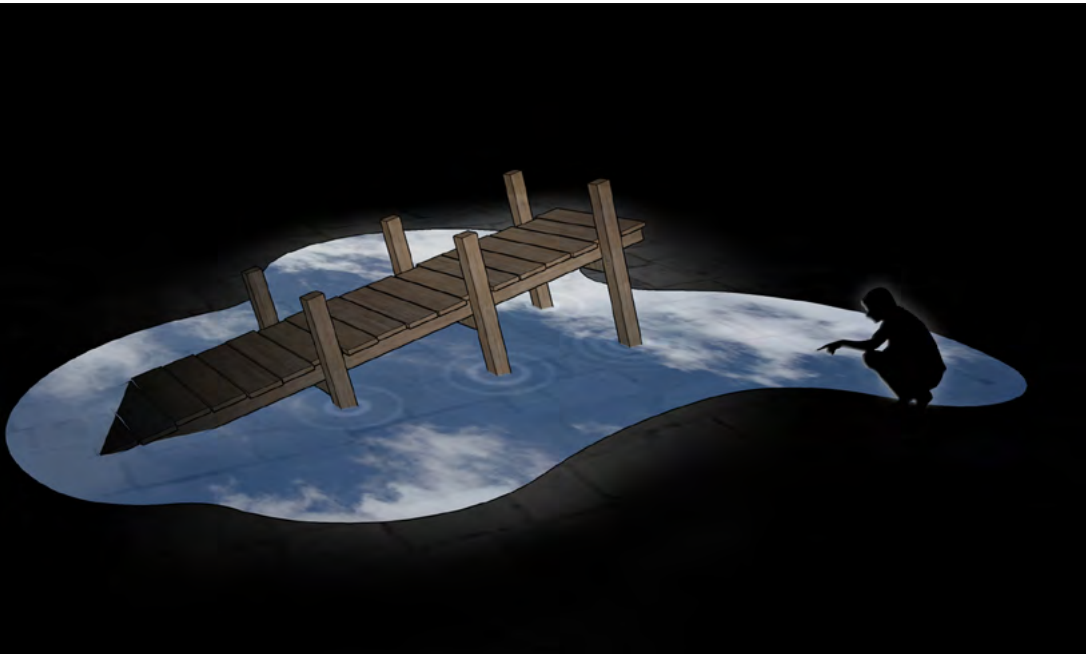


José Llop





THE 2019 PROJECT



Témoin by Nicolas Tourte

A video installation inspired by the theme of insularity

- ● ● ● ● The title "Témoin" which evokes a multitude of interpretations, is here related to illusory rapports that the artist - who is fond of oxymorons - likes to concoct. "Passage," one of his previous video installations, showed a splayed-open book swept back and forth by the surf: the combination of these elements infused the work with a biblical, sacred and historical feel. Nicolas Tourte's work is quixotic without being jarring, poetic without being unrealistic. Nevertheless, the artist enjoys - basically as a rule - altering perceptions, questioning equilibrium and distilling ambiguity, creating works that are all the more Circean because they are beautiful to behold.

Will passers-by in Hydra, attracted by a strange brightness in the night, linger on this old pontoon, encircled by an imaginary body of water that reflects the diurnal sky? Somewhere between waking dream and false truth, the artist invites viewers into his ruse - a roman-

tic gesture - to then step back or examine a wider perspective. Inversely, under the blazing sun, this accelerated marine passage revives a meandering insular history. Is this the surviving vestige of a naval battle, the tangible symbol of imminent danger or some purposeful form of disrepair?

By choosing to "move" a seaside structure onto an empty square bordered by citrus trees, the artist opens up all the stops. *"I work with limited means but I like to maintain an ambiguous link between real and virtual, true and false. The important thing is not to control everything, so that each person can project his or her own narrative. My work relative to the image comes from the idea of repetition: following and identifying processes and invisible mechanisms that govern our lives. I often like to make people think that my works are made in a high-tech way, despite the fact that they're not,"* the artist stated. That effect is clear.

Nicolas Tourte

OPENING UP TO AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER



© Christophe Loiseau

Born in 1977 in Charleville-Mézières, Nicolas Tourte lives in Lille and works in various places. He is represented by Laure Roynette Gallery in Paris.

He was selected by Hermès for several projects ("La Tête dans les nuages" in 2014 and "L'œil du flâneur" in 2015), which gave his cult objects a completely unexpected use. He has had various solo exhibitions in French museums and art centers: at Chapelle de l'Oratoire in Clermont-Ferrand, at Château d'Hardelot, at Musée de la Piscine in Roubaix, at ESAM Caen ... In 2018, Nicolas Tourte will expand his reputation abroad through several group exhibitions, from Taipei (for the Biennial) to Barcelona, from Beirut to Katowice in Poland, Rome and more...

● ● ● ● ● MAKARIOU SQUARE

It was a first in 2018!

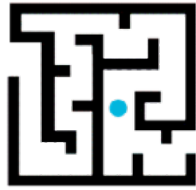
Thanks to the Hydra Town Hall - a partner of the HYAM project - Makariou Square hosted an ephemeral work of art for its islanders: locals and tourists alike. Located a few minutes from the port in the heart of the city, in a neighborhood featuring the most beautiful mansions and gardens, Makariou Square takes its name from Saint Macaire of Corinth. This bishop-turned-metropolitan bishop, who was familiar with Hydra, became a central Orthodox figure in the second half of the 18th century. His legacy remains through a reference book published in Venice in 1781. "The Philokalia" - love of beauty - "of the Neptical Saints," created with Nicodemus the Hagiorite, is an anthology of rare and unpu-



blished texts in Byzantine Greek praising asceticism and wisdom. Fast forward, and the stone monument that fences in the square pays tribute to Hydra's resistance fighters executed by the Germans during World War II.

Press release

Paris, May 2019



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :

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