

OLIVIER AMSELLEM



ÎLE DU LEVANT ÎLE DU TITAN

Photographic commission
Preview from 20 July until 21 September - Île du Levant
Exhibition from 19 October 2014 until 11 January 2015 - Villa Noailles

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ÎLE DU LEVANT, ÎLE DU TITAN
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

PREVIEW
FROM 20 JULY UNTIL 21
SEPTEMBER - ÎLE DU LEVANT

EXHIBITION
FROM 19 OCTOBER 2014
UNTIL 11 JANUARY 2015

VERNISSAGE IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE ARTIST
18 OCTOBER AT 6.30PM
VILLA NOAILLES, HYÈRES

A bilingual French|English catalogue will be published for the exhibition and will be available at the Villa Noailles from 18 October as well as through a European network of bookshops in partnership with Archibooks.

ÎLE DU LEVANT, ÎLE DU TITAN

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Each year since 2003, the Villa Noailles has invited a photographer to undertake a commission relating to the area surrounding Hyères.

Previous photographers to have accepted this invitation are: Joël Tettamanti, Erwan Frotin, Charles Fréger, Grégoire Alexandre, Cécile Bortoletti and Cyrille Weiner.

Olivier Amsellem

Winner of the International Festival of Fashion and Photography at Hyères in 1998, Olivier Amsellem has undertaken his third commission for the arts centre (*Variations Modernes*, in 2005, and *Architecture de la Disparition*, in 2009). Born in 1971, he spends his time living and working in Marseilles and Paris.

The Île du Levant

The naturist resort called Héliopolis was created in 1932 by two brothers, the doctors André and Gaston Durville, and occupies part of the Île du Levant, which is in turn part of the municipality of Hyères. The rest of the island is owned by the military and is not open to the public.

Olivier Amsellem regularly visited the island from November 2011 until May 2014, roaming across all of its sites.

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“HÉLIOPOLIS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF ITS FOUNDERS, MUST NOT BE A TOWN OR A VILLAGE, NOR AN AGGLOMERATION OF HOUSES OR LUXURY VILLAS, BUT A SIMPLE RUSTIC ESTATE WHERE LOVERS OF FRESH AIR AND SUN MAY COME, WITHIN THE CALM OF A BEAUTIFUL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, TO REST AND SPEND SIMPLE AND WHOLESOME HOLIDAYS, FOR THE SAKE OF BETTER HEALTH.”

**GASTON AND
ANDRÉ DURVILLE**

^ILE DU LEVANT, ^ILE DU TITAN

OLIVIER AMSELLEM

This work, undertaken with Olivier Amsellem over almost three years, fits within a process initiated in 1990 with Bernard Plossu on the islands of Porquerolles and Port-Cros. It was important to me to complete this “photographic trilogy on the îles d’Or” with Olivier Amsellem, as we share a passion for architectures and their furnishings. This approach, of lived-in and abandoned spaces, seemed a natural response to the commission. The photographic project Variations Modernes also created with Olivier Amsellem dealt with recognising and taking stock of post-modernity within the surroundings of Toulon.

His precise and sensitive outlook on these strong landscapes confirmed our desire to work together, to remain attentive to our surrounding heritage, endlessly questioning this land.

Île du Levant, île du titan, is a commission which accurately reveals the natural and constructed beauty of the island; paradise island, garden island, for the first time in its entirety, from the lighthouse of the Titan to Maupertuis. But, above all, it manages to capture the free, wild and marvellous spirit of the Levantines.

May this initial presentation in Paradise make you wish to discover it, to share it, to live it.

**JEAN-PIERRE BLANC,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
VILLA NOAILLES**

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VILLA NOAILLES, HYÈRES

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**OPEN EVERYDAY EXCEPT MONDAYS,
TUESDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS
FROM 1PM TO 6PM. FRIDAYS LATE NIGHT
OPENING FROM 3PM TO 8PM.
FREE ADMISSION**

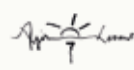
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of the website. Password available by request.



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