



PRESS RELEASE

—

EXHIBITION

OKINAWA !!

VICTOIRE THIERRÉE

OKINAWA !!

EXHIBITION AT COLLECTION LAMBERT, AVIGNON (FRANCE)

APRIL 19TH | JUNE 15TH

Victoire Thierrée discovered the island of Okinawa through the work of photographer Shōmei Tōmatsu (1930-2012) during her first visit to Japan in 2012. Tōmatsu was the first to document the American military presence on Okinawa, giving rise in 1969 to a publication, 'Okinawa, Okinawa, Okinawa', a title to which the series of photographs and the exhibition refer directly - like a cry.

In 2019, she explores this territory where thirty-two American military bases remain and 10,000 GIs are still present on the island. She produced a series of black and white photographs with a medium-format 6 x 9 (vertical) camera, focusing on the outskirts of the bases, where majestic nature seems to offer a form of resistance to this occupation.

This first series marks the beginning of a wider exploration. In 2023, she travels to the archives of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., to research botanist Egbert H. Walker (1899-1991), who directed a major post-war project in the Ryūkyū Islands. As part of the Serviceman's Collecting Program, Walker mobilized American soldiers to collect natural specimens (plants, corals, minerals...) from the territories they occupied. In 1951, he supervised the collection of more than 8,000 plant samples from areas marked by the violent fighting of the Battle of Okinawa (April 1 - June 22, 1945). From these archives, Victoire Thierrée has selected forty herbarium plates, which she has photographed.

The exhibition, Okinawa!!, brings together photographs taken between Japan and the United States, as well as a series of glass sculptures created at the Centre international de recherche sur le verre et les arts plastiques (CIRVA) in Marseille. They are inspired by Akira Yoshimura's novel, 'Dying for the Fatherland' (1967), in which we follow the descent into hell of fourteen-year-old Shinichi Higa, enlisted in an Okinawan battalion just like the one thousand seven hundred and eighty pupils from the archipelago's schools. These sculptures represent eyes exorcised by what they have seen.

Glassmaking is closely linked to the Ryūkyū Islands. As early as 1945, the archipelago was placed under American administration, and orders for glassware and souvenirs for servicemen returning to the USA were very strong. However, almost all the workshops had disappeared, and the general shortage of raw materials meant that glass artisans fell back on beer and Coca-Cola bottles consumed by GIs and abandoned on the outskirts of military installations / in the wild. The technique and appearance of the sculptures echo this unique know-how, developed in a heavy historical context. The sculptures are held in the room with steel structures, like normally concealed pedestal hooks.

OKINAWA !!

SUPPORTS

The Okinawa!! project was selected and supported by the Fondation des Artistes' patronage commission. It has also received support for an artistic project from the Centre national des arts plastiques in 2019 and 2022. Okinawa!! also benefited from Victoire Thierrée's residency at the Villa Albertine, a program of the French Institute for Culture and Education.

Production of the glass sculptures at Cirva and the exhibition at Collection Lambert is supported by the Drac PACA, as part of the "Mieux Produire, Mieux Diffuser" program.



A la Fondation
des Artistes

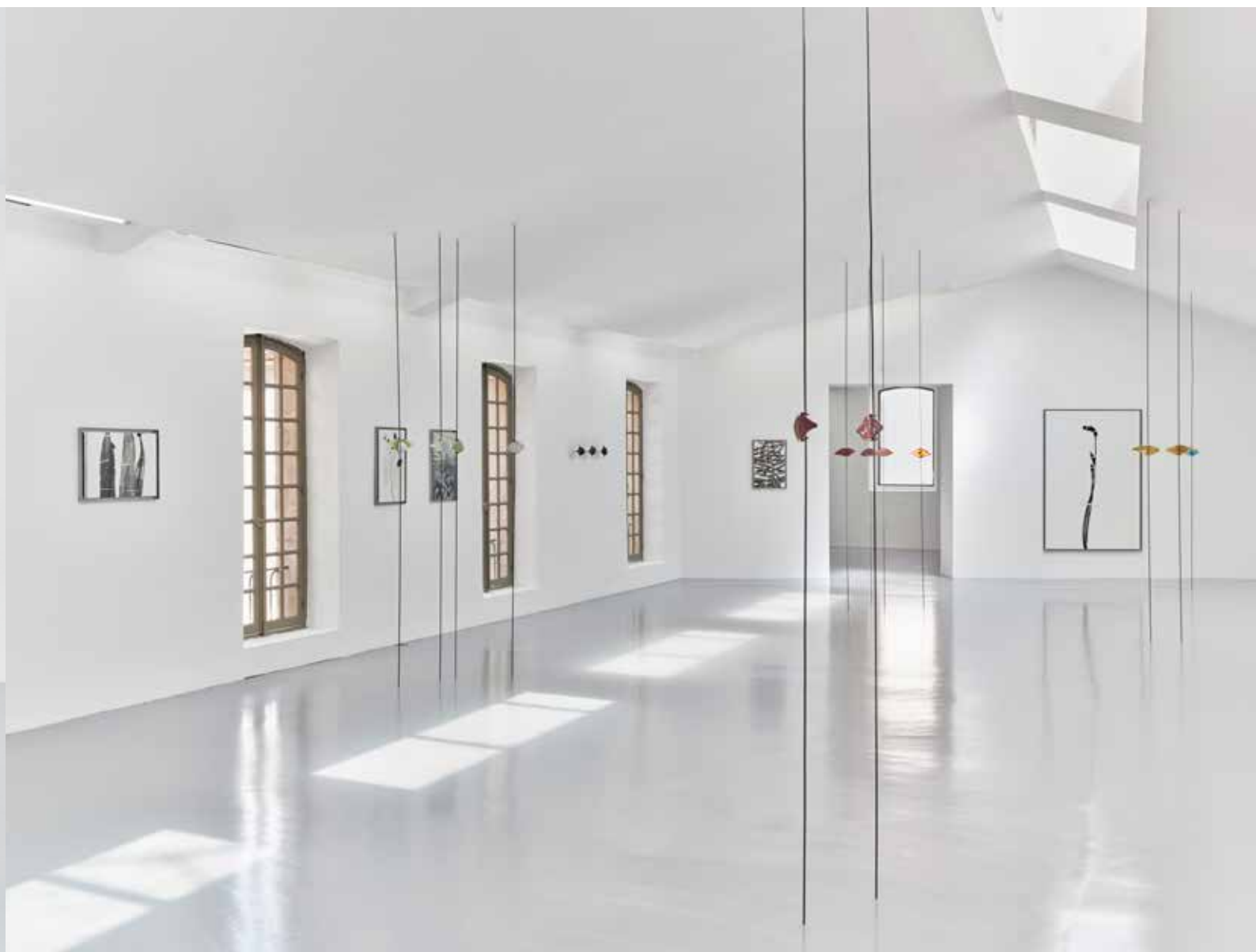


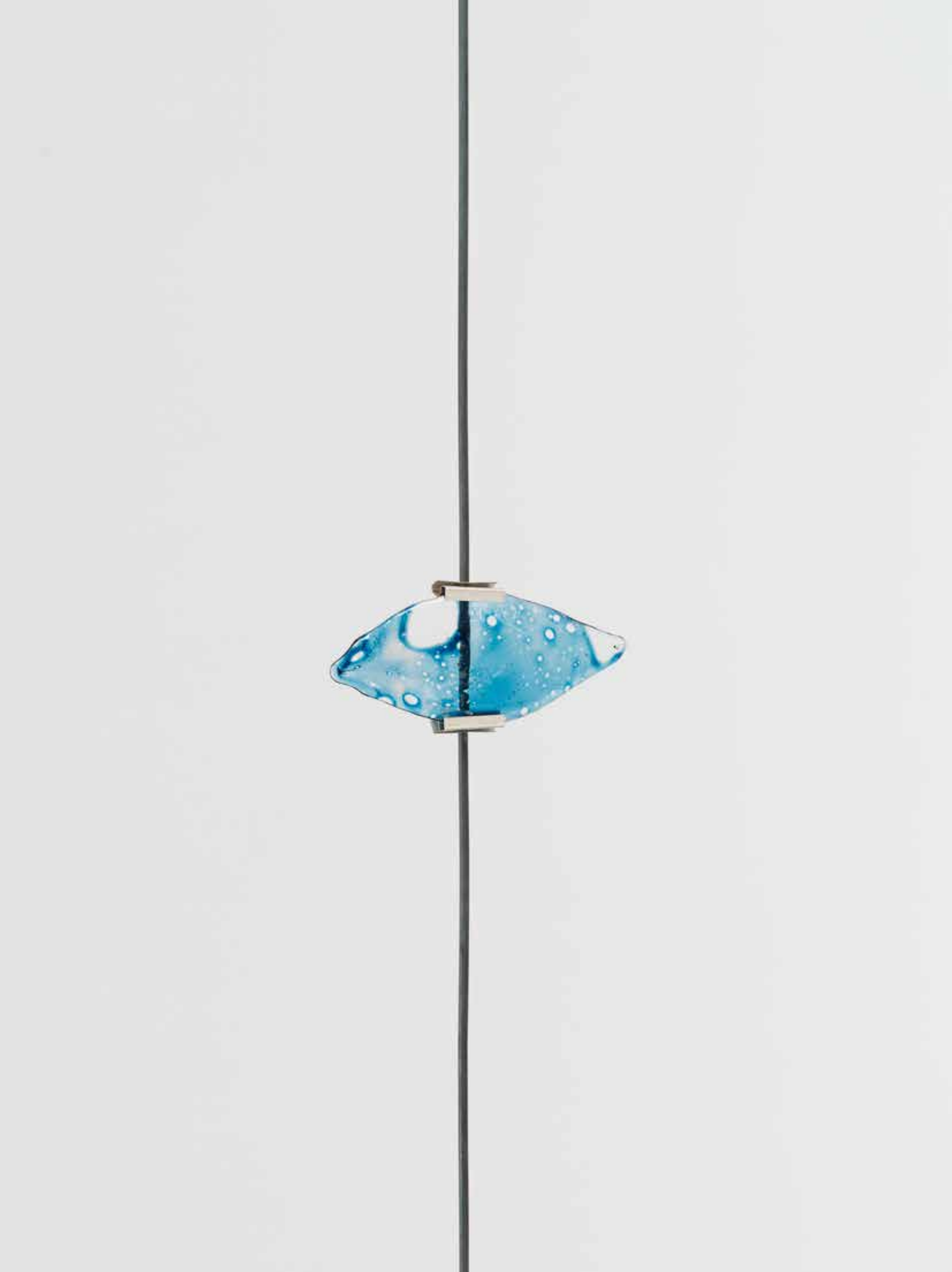
CIRVA

OKINAWA !!

EXHIBITION PHOTOGRAPHS







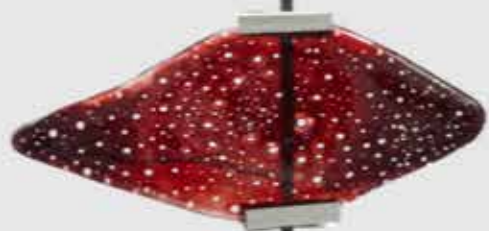






















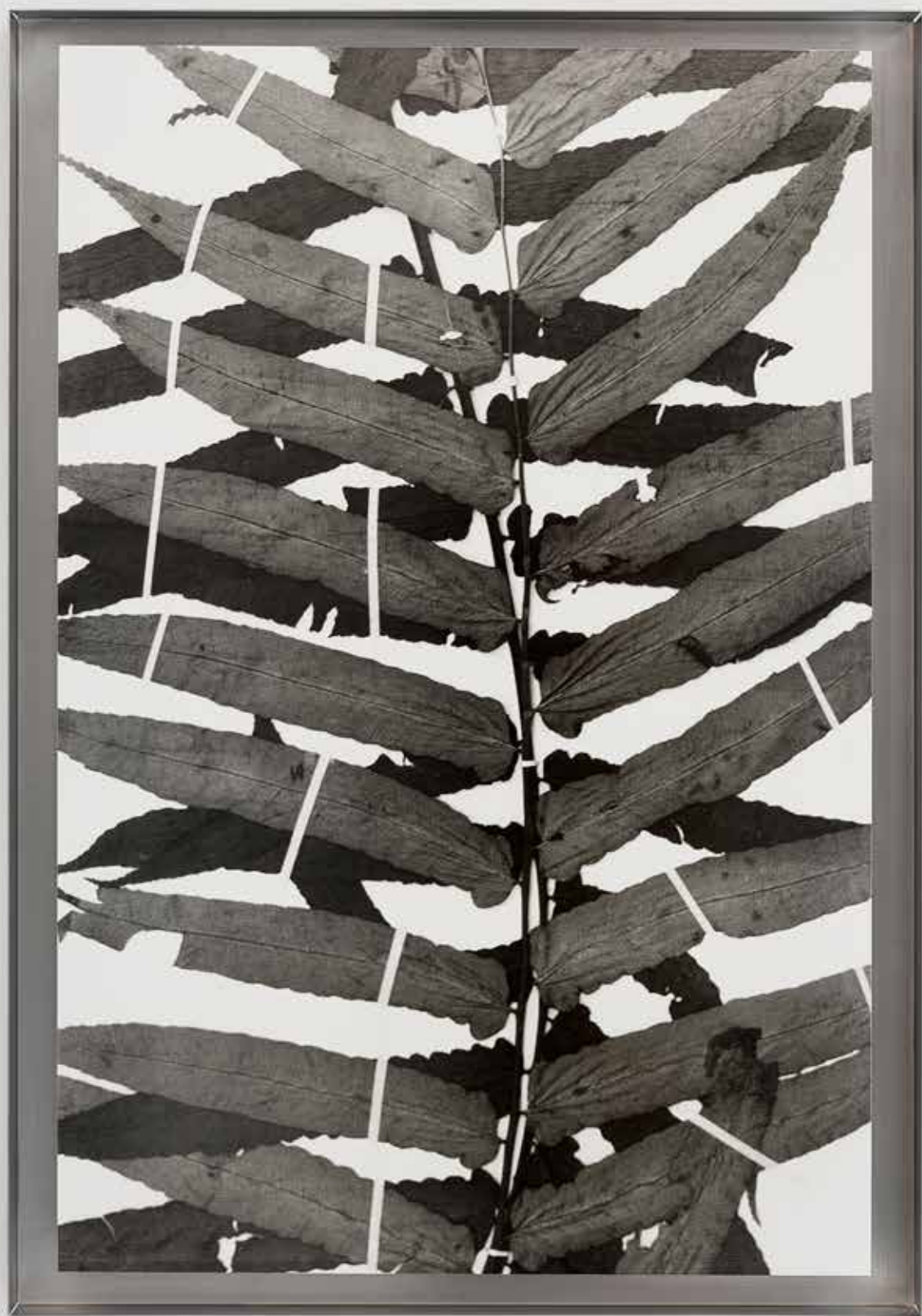












VICTOIRE THIERRÉE

BIOGRAPHY

Sculptor, photographer and video artist Victoire Thierrée explores the links between nature, form and technology, when used by man to overcome his limitations in extreme contexts - military, defense and survival.

In 2023, Victoire Thierrée was awarded the Villa Albertine residency in the United States. She developed a research project at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles on E.A.T. (Experiments in Art and Technology) and held her first solo exhibition in the United States, entitled Chasseur-cueilleur, at the Green gallery (Milwaukee). In 2021, she completed a research residency at the Observatoire de l'Espace of the Centre national d'études spatiales (Cnes) on astromobiles on the planet Mars.

This research took the form, in January 2025, of a series of brass sculptures photographed in the Algerian desert during his residency at Rhizome, in partnership with the French Institute.

In 2024, she also created a steel sculpture entitled Caillou, modified by atmospheric pressure during a balloon flight to 30,406 meters (stratosphere), before returning to Earth. In 2025, she will produce her first publication, Okinawa! with publisher RVB BOOKS. Her projects have been supported by the Centre national des Arts Plastiques (Cnap), La Fondation des Artistes (FNAGP), La Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles (DRAC), Le Centre Nationale du Cinéma (CNC), l'Académie des Beaux-Arts, l'Institut Français and l'Observatoire de l'Espace du Centre national d'études spatiales (Cnes).

OKINAWA !!

VICTOIRE THIERRÉE

PUBLICATION BY RVB BOOKS (APRIL 2025).

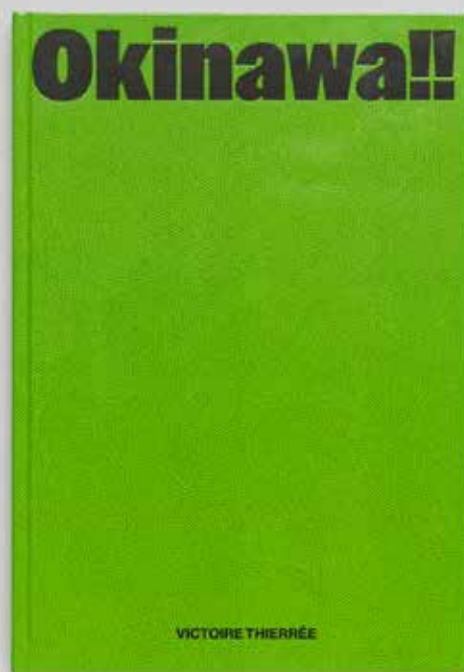
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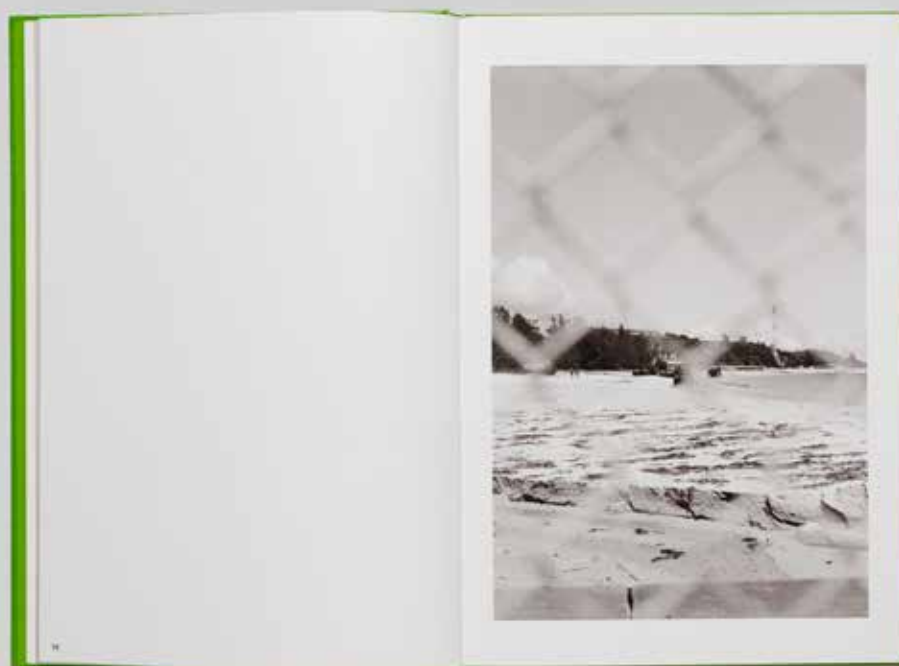
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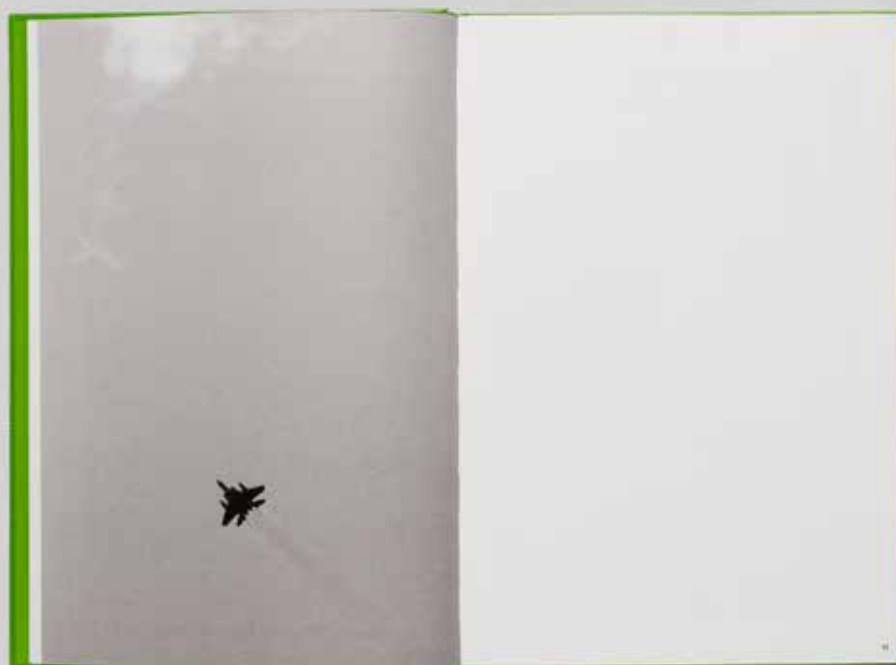
120 pages

56 black & white photographs

With a text written by Jean-Yves Jouannais



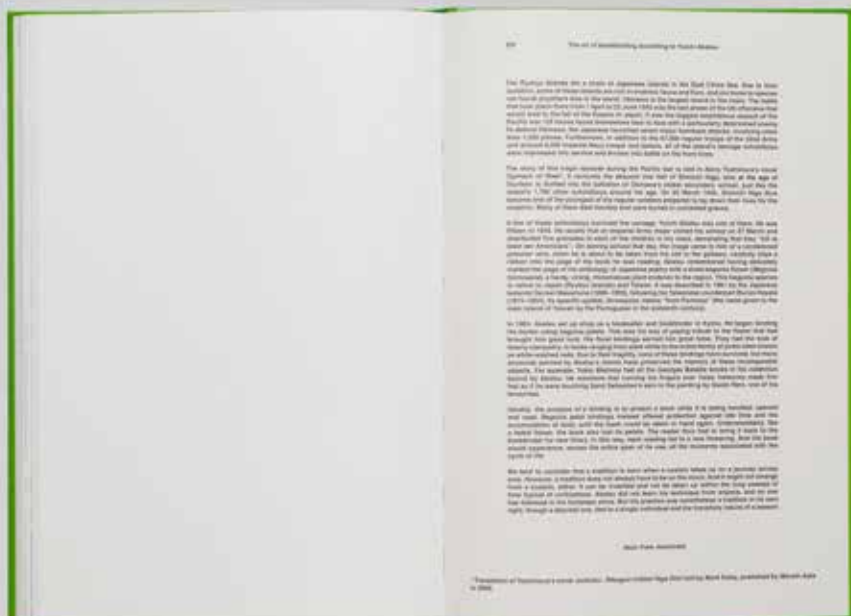
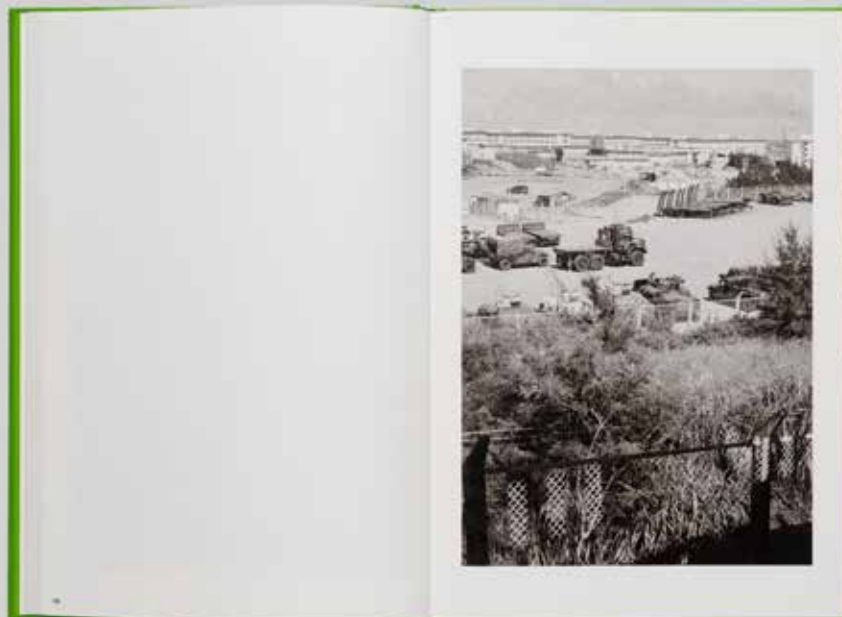












VICTOIRE THIERRÉE

PRODUCTION OF SCULPTURES AT THE INTERNATIONAL GLASS AND VISUAL
ARTS RESEARCH CENTRE (CIRVA) CIRVA

FEBRUARY 2025



Photographs : Victoire Thierrée et Alexandre Corbillon
© Victoire Thierrée / Adagp 2025







THE INTERNATIONAL GLASS AND VISUAL ARTS RESEARCH CENTRE (CIRVA) PRESENTATION

The International Glass and Visual Arts Research Centre (Cirva) is an art center that places creation at the heart of its project. Occupying a singular position on the world stage since 1983, it invites artists and designers to work on a specific material - glass - with total freedom. They are welcomed into the Cirva studio alongside a team of top-level glass technicians, with whom a dialogue begins. This exchange develops over time, through repeated visits. This tool offers the opportunity to conduct daring experiments where the limitless paths of thought meet a material reputed to be complex and unpredictable.

Cirva's collection of over a thousand pieces bears witness to the experiments carried out with guest artists, who donate certain pieces to the association at the end of their collaboration. Le Cirva is committed to bringing the collection to life and making it accessible to as many people as possible through partnerships and loans for exhibitions and off-site events. This distribution is accompanied by privileged moments of discovery in the studio, which can be visited on open days.

Cirva is a non-profit organization, recognized as being in the public interest, and has been supported since its creation by the Ministry of Culture / Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Department of Cultural Affairs, the City of Marseille, the Conseil Régional Sud Paca and the Conseil Départemental des Bouches-du-Rhône.



Giuseppe Penone in the studio, 1997
Photo ©Cirva

LA COLLECTION LAMBERT

PRESENTATION

The Collection Lambert in Avignon is a unique contemporary art museum, the brainchild of art dealer and collector Yvon Lambert, who donated an exceptional collection of major works from the second half of the 20th and early 21st centuries to the French state. Housed in two magnificent 18th-century townhouses in the heart of Avignon, the Collection Lambert presents ambitious exhibitions and a varied cultural and educational program, with the support of the French State, the City of Avignon, the Region, the Département and private sponsors.

When the museum was created in 2000, Yvon Lambert's works were on deposit, and the Collection occupied only the Hôtel de Caumont. A donation of more than 550 works to the French State was formalized in 2012, and an architectural project led by architects Cyrille and Laurent Berger increased the museum's surface area to almost 5,000 m² in 2015, with the addition of the Hôtel de Montfaucon and an auditorium.

The collection features works by artists as varied and renowned as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Miquel Barceló, Sol LeWitt, Robert Ryman, Lawrence Weiner, Nan Goldin, Andres Serrano, Christian Boltanski, Daniel Buren, Douglas Gordon, Cy Twombly, Niele Toroni, Bertrand Lavier, Claire Fontaine, Mirosław Balka, Adel Abdessemed ou Francesco Vezzoli, with sets often unrivalled in other French collections.

An exhibition featuring a regularly renewed selection of works from the collection is on permanent display at the Hôtel de Caumont, with focuses on certain movements or artists particularly well represented in the collection, while the Hôtel de Montfaucon hosts temporary exhibitions in two annual cycles.



Lawrence Weiner,
DOWN AND OUT. AND OUT AND DOWN.
AND DOWN AND OUT. AND OUT AND DOWN, 1971

View of the installation on the façade of the Hôtel de Caumont in 2000 - All rights reserved, photo Franck Couvreur

PRESS CONTACTS

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