

# CONTEMPLATION

**1 000 m<sup>2</sup>** bamboo structure, **70m** length, **10m** high  
a structure designed by Simón Vélez and Stefana Simic  
**40** photographs by Matthieu Ricard, printed **2m x 1,5m**  
on a **1,400 years-old** traditional and handmade Japanese paper



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*All proceeds from Matthieu Ricard's participation to Contemplation will be donated to Karuna-Shechen : [www.Karuna-Shechen.org](http://www.Karuna-Shechen.org)*

# CONTEMPLATION

ARLES / FROM 2 JUILLET TO 23 SEPTEMBRE 2018

40 photographs by Matthieu Ricard in the heart of a monumental bamboo pavilion created by the architect Simon Vélez

## A PLACE OF SERENITY

This monumental installation is established on the banks of the Rhône, facing the old town of Arles, in the emerging district of Trinquetaille. For this edition of the Rencontres d'Arles, Simón Vélez and Strefana Simic imagined and designed this unique 1,000 square meters pavilion for Matthieu Ricard's photography.

The monument has been created as a "place of serenity" propitious to discovery and contemplation ; a corridor, a bridge between Art and Matthieu Ricard's spiritual commitments.

## SPIRITUALITY AT THE CORE OF THE PROJECT

The architecture of the Pavilion is inspired by the malocas of South America: they are large constructions of wooden pillars with a roof made out of palm leaves, the only furniture are hammocks. Malocas represent their habitants' link to nature, which is sacred to them. By embracing this ancient concept, Simón Vélez puts spirituality in the heart of his project.

## COMPLEMENTARITY OF TECHNICS

In Arles, knowledges and technics are shared : pre-building methods and fast mounting system developed by VINCI Construction France meet the heritage of Simon Vélez. This intersection of expertises are thus valuing the Colombian patrimony. The vocation of Contemplation - travelling the world - is at the genesis of the structural concept.



## ANCIENT JAPANESE PRINTING TECHNIQUE

The photos are printed on traditional Japanese Awagami paper, which is a part of the country's heritage and whose production dates back around 1,400 years. These photos, taken between 1983 and 2017, bear witness to Matthieu Ricard lifetime devoted to the quest for spiritual questions.

## DEDICATED WORDS FOR EACH IMAGE

The 40, 2mx1.5m prints occupy the entirety of the space, immersing the spectator in a world that encourages reflection. Each photo is accompanied by a phrase inspiring introspection and meditation, handwritten by Matthieu Ricard. From Nepal to India, from Argentina to Tibet and from Chilli to Bhutan, light emerges from the plenitude of immense landscapes inducing the visitor into a mood of contemplation.



## CONTEMPLATION, A HYMN TO ALTRUISME AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Through Contemplation, photography and architecture enter in communion: the bamboo structure and natural materials used by Simón Vélez and Stefana Simic echo back the commitment and the values of the photographer. The play of lights and shapes of the pavilion underlines and sublimates the light-dark of the photographs, thus creating a true place of serenity. In this unique collaboration between Matthieu Ricard and Simón Vélez – the former having devoted his life to spirituality and the latter particularly focused on ethical issues – Contemplation reminds us of the importance of universal and essential values.

## CONTEMPLATION IN ARLES, THE FIRST STAGE OF A NOMADIC PROJECT

Designed to be a travelling project, after this first stage in Arles. Contemplation is set to encounter new places and new audiences, and to pursue even further this artistic and spiritual adventure.