

AMELIE DU CHALARD

PARIS - NEW YORK



LA PIERRE EN RÉSONANCE

An exhibition of monumental artworks
by Audrey Guimard in Les Baux-de-Provence

Curated by Clara Le Fort
June 4 through October 31, 2026



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The region as a raw material

In Les Baux-de-Provence, stones are more than just a building material: they embody memory, structure, and vitality. Born from the geological history of the Alpilles mountain range, they bear the layers of time within them; they are shaped by water, wind, and light, before being transformed by human hands.

In Les Baux-de-Provence, both the village and the castle rise from the rocky landscape; they stand as a testament to the continuity between nature and culture, between a primal, mineral form and a protected architectural heritage.

The exhibition *“La Pierre en Résonance” - The Resonating Stone -* is rooted in the local landscape and engages in a dialogue with it: through a series of monumental sculptures, fountains, and totems made of blonde stone, brass, and glass, artist Audrey Guimard creates a journey that stretches from the village entrance to the castle, passing through its squares, historic buildings, esplanades, and ruins. Each work resonates with the site that hosts it, revealing its lines, its voids, its tensions, and its silences.

Serving as the central theme of this exhibition, the raw material undergoes a metamorphosis: at times raw, massive, and fragile; at others, immobile and permeable, the stones come to life, crack, become polished, and take on shimmering reflections. One by one, the sculptures form hybrid compositions in which the mineral interacts with water, light, and air, and responds to the landscape.

“I conceived each work as a point of tension between permanence and change, between weight and vibration, between density and transparency, between vessel and fragment.”

Audrey Guimard



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The Memory of Gestures

The exhibition naturally explores humankind's relationship with stones. From extraction to cutting, from architecture to sculpture, human actions leave traces that tell the story of the labor and craftsmanship of quarrymen, builders, and artisans: tool marks, repetitive patterns, engraved rhythms, the impact of machinery, and the marks of cutting blades—these imprints, whether visible or implied, echo the quarries as well as the ramparts and ruins of the Château. Here, the act of building is inseparably linked to that of digging.

Audrey Guimard's sculptures are a reflection on the passage of time: they echo geological formations (the limestone hills surrounding the village) as well as ancient civilizations (Arles built by the Romans), embracing the era of medieval builders (the architects of the Château des Baux and the Abbey of Montmajour), as well as that of contemporary creation. For the visitor, stone, water, and light become symbols of this millennia-long journey.

"La Pierre en Résonance" is an invitation to slow down, to feel and observe the village and castle des Baux-de-Provence in a new light. The exhibition does not impose itself on the landscape: it listens to it, accompanies it, and reveals it. Each sculpture acts as an echo chamber, amplifying the relationship between the visitor's body, the history of the place, and the forces that shaped it, offering an experience that is at once sensory, poetic, and deeply rooted in the land.



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Audrey Guimard's work: bringing out the beauty of stone

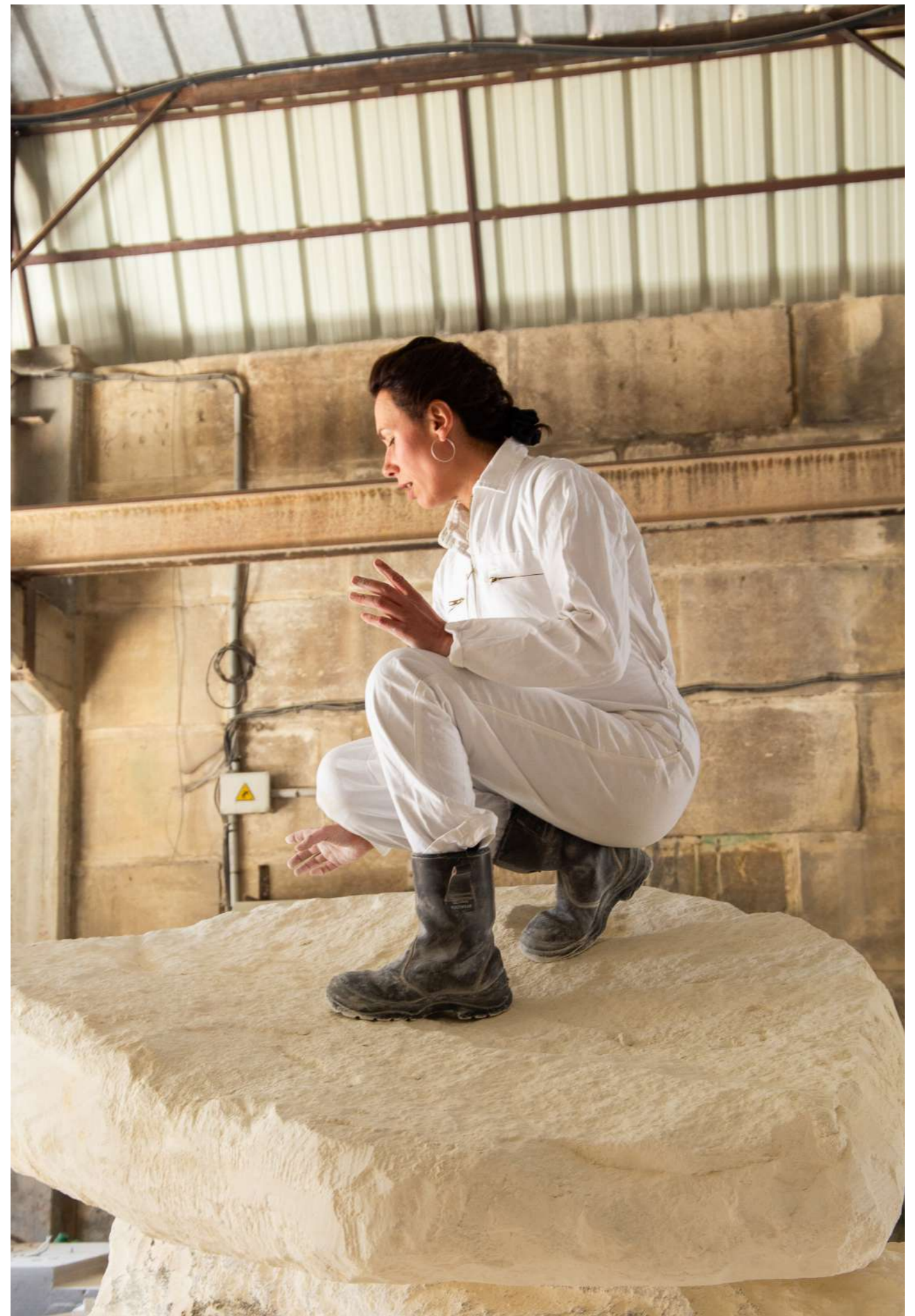
Fascinated by stone and minerals, sculptor Audrey Guimard explores them in all their forms: raw, carved, eroded, fragmented, and reassembled. The shapes, rough edges, fractures, irregularities, and tool marks become elements of a visual language, revealing the inherent beauty of the quarry blocks that the artist chooses to highlight.

Her work pays homage to geological eras as well as to vanished civilizations, to ancient architecture as well as to ruins and remnants where stone preserves the memory of past actions and customs.

In collaboration with the historic quarries of Sarragan and Fontvieille, Audrey Guimard grounds her work in a sense of territorial and human continuity. She carries on the legacy of the people who extract, carve, and build with stone, while infusing these actions with a poetic and contemporary dimension.

A laureate of the Hermès Corporate Foundation's Académie des savoir-faire, sculptor Audrey Guimard has developed a practice rooted in her relationship with stone, a material she explores from the fragmentary to the monumental. By working closely with artisans, quarry workers, and local stakeholders, she revives ancestral techniques while developing new aesthetics where art, craftsmanship, design, architecture, installations, and land art converge. Her sensitive explorations of the material have also led her to collaborate with luxury brands (Cartier, Margiela, Sessun).





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Les Baux-de-Provence

In Les Baux-de-Provence, cultural heritage is never static: it engages, evolves, and inspires. Through the exhibition “*La Pierre en Résonance*,” the town reaffirms its commitment to contemporary art.

From the heart of the village to the ruins of the castle, Audrey Guimard presents a body of work rooted in local materials. By reviving the traditional techniques of stonemasons and builders, the artist situates her practice within a tradition where stone becomes language, memory, and resonance.

Inspired by reflections on time and transformation, “*La Pierre en Résonance*” embodies Les Baux-de-Provence’s ambition: to transform its historic sites into true hubs of creativity. By welcoming contemporary artists into its ancient landscapes, the town is bringing to life an open cultural vision, where art reveals and extends the spirit of these places.

The village and the château thus serve as the setting for an experience where traces of the past meet the forms of today, reaffirming Les Baux-de-Provence’s role as a place of cultural transmission and encounter.





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Curatorial Team

Founded in 2015, the Amelie du Chalard Gallery (Paris, New York) explores all forms of visual art including painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, ceramics, photography, and textile art through a shared core philosophy: the material itself, at the heart of every artistic practice. Amélie du Chalard represents nearly a hundred artists from around the world and promotes their work to private collectors, foundations, institutions, and professional groups.

This summer, she is presenting the off-site exhibition “*La Pierre en Résonance*” by Audrey Guimard, with whom she has been working for five years.

A journalist for French and international media and the author of numerous books, Clara Le Fort explores topics related to socially conscious lifestyle, with a particular focus on sustainable travel and new forms of luxury. As a creative director, she advises brands on these strategic issues. She also serves as an exhibition curator, notably in Arles and the Alpilles; she is the driving force behind the exhibition “*La Pierre en Résonance*.”





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Taillades Quarry, Fontvieille

The quarrying of Fontvieille stone dates back to Roman times, but it was not until the early 15th century, with the large-scale construction of Tarascon Castle, that the industry experienced a decisive boom that would shape the centuries to come. This shell limestone owes its worldwide reputation to its exceptional technical properties: a tenderness that facilitates extraction combined with high crush resistance, as well as a natural ability to become impermeable as it dries due to the formation of a layer of calcine. At its peak in 1914, the site produced up to 24,000 m³ of stone per year, shipping its blocks via the Rhône to Lyon, Nice, and throughout the Mediterranean basin.

Today, the Taillades quarry remains in operation, with an annual production of 2,000 m³. The expertise lives on along the Route des Baux, and the quarry continues to mine this living mineral heritage in an open-pit operation.

Sarragan Quarry, Les Baux-de-Provence

The Sarragan Quarry is the last underground quarry still in continuous operation in the PACA region in France. For nearly 200 years, its quarrymen have been extracting the blonde limestone of Les Baux-de-Provence. The extracted blocks are then cut and shaped on site. Window frames, pillars, fireplaces, and fountains, custom-cut in its workshops, are used by traditional masons in the Alpilles to restore or adorn country estates and gardens. Passing on this expertise is a daily priority, particularly during the European Heritage Days (Artistic Crafts, Built Heritage, Heritage) for those wishing to discover this exceptional heritage site.



