

MARIE HUGO

PANTUN FOREST



GALERIE HUIT ARLES

8 rue de la Calade, 13200 Arles

www.galeriehuit.com

THE PANTUN FOREST

The *pantun* is a traditional and oral form of Malay poetry, which was popularised in Europe by Victor Hugo and Charles Baudelaire.

Pantuns are short poems, with similarities to European quatrains or Japanese haikus.

In Malay culture, *pantuns* are used to communicate a message, an idea, a state of mind or even a marriage proposal and the response.

This oral tradition, rooted in the natural environment, takes us to the heart of the Malay world.



The Pantun Forest

An art installation by Marie Hugo, situated in the Galerie Huit vaults, and created especially for RUMAH (at home in Malay), an evolutive exhibition during Marseille-Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture.

Attached to Marie Hugo's pillars of light or 'trees', the *pantuns* evoke messages carved onto tree trunks or leaves hanging from branches.



Entering the *pantun* forest, the visitor discovers the poems written in Malay, French, English and Jawi, the ancient Arab script still used by Malays. On each 'leaf' a key word guides the visitor as he or she moves from tree to tree, from poem to poem, from language to language.



MARIE HUGO

Marie Hugo is a French artist who lives and works between London and her birthplace, the South of France. At the age of sixteen, she was admitted to the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Montpellier, where she studied engraving and lithography. Having lived in Asia, Marie Hugo is inspired not only by the *pantun*, dear to her illustrious ancestor, Victor Hugo, but also by more recent family links to the legendary port of Melaka. Marie Hugo creates a luminescent work, in which Indian inks play on transparency and fragility.

"Limpid waters and Indian ink have become my playmates: with them I explore the moon, the sea, the sun. With water and ink I brave waves, storms and torrents, drawing the timeless story of my tiny place on Earth".

Marie Hugo



Toutes les photographies sont d'Hervé Hôte

GALERIE HUIT ARLES

Galerie Huit is situated in a late 17th century mansion, in the historical town centre of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Arles. Photographs, paintings, sculptures and 'objets de désir' are displayed in the unusual salon settings of this atmospheric exhibition space. Founded by author/curator Julia de Bierre in 2007, the gallery has acquired a solid reputation for its careful selection of artists – both established and emerging – and the quality and originality of its hangings or installations.

As well as a regular exhibition programme, and distinguished private views, the gallery hosts residencies and workshops for artists and writers. Much more than just an art space, Galerie Huit is a creative, inspirational and convivial venue in a magnificent location.