

VALLOIS**33**

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Arman**(Nice, 1928 – New York, 2005)**

We may think we know everything about Arman's multifaceted body of work, but the exceptional pieces brought together for these two exhibitions attest to Arman's inventiveness and relevance. They reveal the principal trajectories of a practice driven by "rage" at a shattered world that the artist strives to reconstruct, even to put in order.

Chronology has been set aside since Arman's works are ongoing projects to which he constantly returns. What persists is the violence of a journey in which the premonition of catastrophe combines with the melancholy of the past and the urgency to act.

Curated by Bernard Blistène**Opening**

Thursday, September
 11, 2025

12.09.25

27.10.25



ARMAN, ALL THAT REMAINS

*Summer Time, 1992*

"(...) A form of detachment mixed with irony runs through Arman's practice, spanning series that oscillate between informal lyricism and minimal seriality, and revealing the beauty of the multiform summoned in abundance. If the social utility of objects falls short, Arman appears to assert that their intrinsic value remains untouched. He may disregard their function, but never their beauty.

(...) Arman's real is an immense display window, the first example of which is undoubtedly that of Iris Clert, which enabled him to create *Le Plein*, a shop of all kinds of accessories, where the gleaming presence of shiny objects stands alongside the weariness of discarded things, where a jumble unearthed from flea markets or garbage bins gives way to desirable objects that the artist cuts apart and deconstructs to grant them a second life. By annihilating their original function, Arman offers them the eternity of art: a method of upcycling, clearly a paradoxical ecology.

(...) Should we not, now, underscore how Arman compels us toward a diagnosis reflecting the history of capitalism, how he claims the right to act in order to subvert the trap of obsolescence and use it to his own ends? A 'planned obsolescence' through aesthetic recycling, a jab at what Henri Lefebvre was simultaneously describing as 'a consumer product' driven by added value. After the readymade and well before Jeff Koons, it is indeed the question of value construction through the power of aesthetics that locates at the core of Arman's practice."

Excerpts from the text by Bernard Blistène published in the exhibition catalogue.

This richly illustrated volume, featuring archival images and documents, brings all the works presented by the gallery since 1991.

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ARMAN THE PILE OF TRADE

LEAVE AN OBJECT IN EXCHANGE FOR ANOTHER

In 1965, at the Allan Stone Gallery in New York, Arman organized the *Quid pro quo* exhibition, which lasted five days and was based on the idea of continuous exchange. Each visitor could bring an object and exchange it for another from an initial pile provided by the artist.

The *Pile of Trade* was reactivated in 1974 at Galerie Entrée in Paris, and again in 2001 at the MAMAC during the artist's retrospective exhibition, *Arman: Passage à l'acte*.

Sixty years later, the Venet Foundation in Le Muy and the GP & N Vallois Gallery in Paris are once again exhibiting this major work by the artist, situated somewhere between the *accumulations* and the *poubelles* in his body of work.



During the exhibition, **EVERYONE** is
INVITED to **TAKE PART** and **HELP**
THE WORK EVOLVE :

BRING OBJECTS you no longer
want and come **EXCHANGE** them
for others from the **PILE** !

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PARIS

09.20 - 09.24
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