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SYMPOSIUM REGULATIONS AS PART OF THE MENET FESTIVAL

**34th International Stone Sculpture Symposium
Saturday July 11 to Saturday July 25 2026**

Theme : "Submersion ?"

Presentation

- As part of the Menet Festival, with this year's annual theme of "No one is an island..." inspired by the poem of John Donne, (17th century), the International Symposium of Stone Sculpture organized by the "Association Pierres de Menet" has chosen the theme "Submersion ?" for its 2026 edition.

John Donne's poem :

"No man is an island, entire of it selfe: every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine, if a Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Mannor of thy friends or of thine own were; ny mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee."

Devotions upon Emergent Occasions – 1624.

- The Symposium takes place in the heart of the Regional Park of the Volcanoes of Auvergne in the village of Menet, labelled "Small City of Character", in the department of Cantal, and was created in 1992 to enhance the history and heritage of this village, founded, in times gone by, by stone-masons working with trachyte, volcanic tuff (or Piperno) and phonolite. Specific to this sector only, these types of rock have been traditionally used for centuries for building, roofing and sculpture in the village.
- A spirit of conviviality and sharing is necessary for the success of the symposium.**

Article 1: Working conditions - Obligations - Insurance

- The sculptors work on trachyte extracted from the quarry (density c.2.5). This density is equivalent to that of granite: **NB please bring tools adapted to this density.** Avoid segmented disks. The sculptors must bring their own personal tools, in particular diamond disks and tungsten carbide chisels (steel chisels are not recommended.) Personal tools must be

used in conformity with their safety rules. In the case of tools lent by the association, these tools must not be modified, in order to avoid security risks to others.

The sculptors must wear appropriate forms of protection (protective shoes, goggles, gloves etc...)

See the annex for a list of indispensable and recommended tools.

- **Sculptors must provide a personal certificate of liability insurance.**
- Sculptors must arrive at the gîte where they will lodge in the afternoon of Saturday July 11.
- The symposium starts on Sunday July 12 and ends on Friday July 24 in the evening. Departure of the artists is on Saturday July 25 before 10 in the morning.
- The artists are required, if they wish to receive the total sum of their indemnity, to be present near their work, so they can describe and present it to the public, on the final day, Friday July 24, before the draw for the tombola.
- At least one piece of sculpture of small dimensions must be executed on the spot or provided free of charge by the artist for the "tombola" (raffle) to support the association financially and allow the symposium to take place.
- The association provides blocks of trachyte, of 1 cubic meter maximum, **not squared off, of the approximate dimensions** requested by the artist, (the stone with a density of approximately 2.6 is essentially composed of feldspar and silica).
- Work in the quarry will take place for 3 days, **July 13, 14 and 15, just allowing the blocks to be roughly cut to shape.** This is the only time when electrical power tools are allowed.
- The sculptures will then be transferred to the Place du Foirail in Menet in the morning of Thursday July 16.
- Once they are in place on the village square, machine-tools will no longer be allowed.
- Following the Menet tradition of stone-cutting by hand, the sculptors will then work to finish their sculpture using manual tools only, in the presence of the public, in the very heart of the village of Menet, from Thursday July 16 to the morning of Friday July 24, the afternoon of July 24 being reserved for the raffle and the presentation of the sculptures to the public, during the closing ceremony.
- Authorized working time: not before 9 am. in the morning.
- Exchanges with the public who come to see the sculptors will thus contribute to the enjoyment of the symposium and to the discovery of their art.
- A public presentation of the artistic practice of the sculptors outside the symposium will be proposed at an evening meeting. This means presenting for a maximum of 15 minutes the second part of the artistic résumé (see art.4) and answering eventual questions from the public.
- A first aid kit will be made available to artists.

Article 2: Travel expenses - Food - Accommodation

- Depending on the distance, part of transport costs will be paid for by the association for the selected artists as follows:
Approximate indication: 275€ up to 2,000Km, 360€ up to 4,000Km, 860€ up to 10,000Km, 1500€ if more than 10,000Km.
- Accommodation is provided by the association from Saturday July 11 in the afternoon, to Saturday July 25 before 10 in the morning, time at which the accommodation will be handed back to the owner of the gîte.
- Morning, midday and evening meals are provided in the village by the organizers (from Saturday July 11 in the evening to breakfast on Saturday July 25 inclusive). For specific diets please notify in advance.
- Personal costs such as telephone calls, drinks consumed outside mealtimes, etc., will be paid for by the participants. There is no access to wifi in the gîte, but access is possible at several points in the village.
- The costs and conditions of accommodation, (lodgings, meals, etc...) of any accompanying persons are not covered by the association, which must be notified in advance in order to find a solution to this eventuality. Any accompanying person will not participate in the work of the sculptor.

Article 3: Date and conditions for submitting applications

- The application is submitted free of charge.
- A complete file should be sent by email in **PDF format** to: pierresdemenet@hotmail.com
Exceptionally a paper file may also be sent by post to the association's headquarters:
Association Pierres de Menet, Mairie de Menet, 1 rue des Écoles, 15400 MENET, FRANCE

Closing date : before February 2, 2026.

Selection of candidates will be made around the end of February 2026

ARTICLE 4: Composition of the application file

- The file must be composed of :
- this list of regulations dated and signed, constituting a commitment to participate in the symposium for the entire duration of the latter in the event of selection,
- a personal certificate of liability insurance,
- the candidate's CV (resume) in PDF format in two parts, with contact details, including a telephone number and an email address, links towards website(s) or social network page,
 - a first part concerning sculptures in stone,
 - a second part concerning works using stone or other materials not concerning the symposium project. This second part, when projected, will serve as a basis for the public evening meeting.
- sketches and/or photo(s) of the project WITH DIMENSIONS,
- a short text_explaining the artistic approach of the original work in relation to the theme of the symposium,
- A few photos, press cuttings, references representative of the artist's work.

Article 5: Selection of candidates

- Selected sculptors will be notified towards the end of February 2026 by email.
- The list of selected sculptors will also be posted on the official website.
- The principal list is constituted of 5 selected candidates. To compensate for eventual refusals, a waiting list will also be created. If necessary, artists on the waiting list will be contacted as soon as possible.

Article 6: Payment

- The sculptor will receive a total of 1,500€ (one thousand five hundred euros) at the end of the symposium for the creation of his/her sculpture, plus an indemnity for travel expenses (cf. article 2).

Article 7: Ownership rights

- The sculptures will become the property of the association Pierres de Menet, and the sculptor will grant the association the right to use images or various photographic supports of the work executed during the symposium and to sell the sculptures produced. The selling price will be 3,000€ (three thousand euros) - to cover the different expenses of the association for the event.

Article 8: Sharing

- During the Symposium, the 24th European Encounters with 50 young people of different nationalities will take place, with the possibility of artistic exchanges, and also a sculpture course for participants of all levels.

SURNAME/FAMILY NAME:First name/Forename:

Date :

Signature preceded by the words "Read and approved"

Annex:

List of recommended indispensable tools:

Angle-grinder diameter 230

Angle-grinder diameter 125

(Unsegmented) diamond disks suitable for granite

Hand sanding tools/pads for granite

Large stone hand-punch/point chisel + bushhammer + flat tungsten carbide chisels, for granite

Indispensable : Security and protection material (adapted clothing, shoes, goggles, helmet, gloves...)