

OFFICE DE TOURISME

St Paul de Vence®



## THE FOLON CHAPEL

*«Associating my name with a chapel in Saint-Paul de Vence will be an expression of my love for all those in the village whom I have loved».* Decorating the White Penitents' chapel was one of Folon's last projects. Saint-Paul de Vence was the perfect setting for the work of an artist so sensitive to the beauty of shapes, substances and the light.

Visiting this chapel, one discovers admirable works designed by the Belgian artist: a mosaic, stained glass windows, sculptures and paintings, all embellishing the walls and the ceiling of the chapel. One also gets to know an artist who developed a bond with Saint-Paul de Vence over thirty years. The close links that Folon nurtured with the craftsmen, his work on the stained glass and sculptures, his fascination with light, are all keys that enable us to decode his world and his definition of art. Folon's thoroughly modern project is embraced by a building that is several centuries old.

*«Creating something spiritual, trying to understand the deep meaning of a place, is a real joy»,* said Folon. Your visit is therefore also a journey of discovery featuring the brotherhood of the White Penitents of Saint-Paul de Vence ; the walls that today host the works of JeanMichel Folon housed the brotherhood for almost three centuries.

### **FOLON, AN ARTIST IN THE LIGHT OF SAINT-PAUL DE VENCE**

Due to the hugely evocative power and the extraordinary expressive and poetic intensity of his work, Folon was part of the international art scene.

As an artist, he certainly liked to experiment. He was curious and interested in a host of ways to translate visible ideas, in the most varied languages, techniques and substances. His favoured watercolour as a medium. But the scope of his art knew no limits.

He was a painter, an engraver, a sculptor, a ceramist, an illustrator of poems, a designer of posters, tapestries, mosaics and stained glass windows, and he designed opera and theatre sets. He liked

to nourish his work by encountering craftsmen: engravers, carvers, foundry workers, glaziers and mosaicists.

The artist's latest work, the decoration of the White Penitents' chapel in Saint-Paul de Vence, illustrates the scope of his creativity.

Ties of friendship linked Folon to Saint-Paul de Vence: with the Roux family, owners of the Colombe d'Or, for whom he painted the restaurant sign; with gallery owner Guy Pieters; with Mayor René Buron; with the many artists, writers and sculptors he frequented in the village, such as his great friend César.

## **FOLON: THE INSPIRED TRAVELLER**

Born in 1934 near Brussels, Folon studied architecture until he decided, at the age of 21, to concentrate instead on drawing. His first sketches were published in the 1960s in the United States, then in France (in L'Express and Le Nouvel Observateur). Watercolours became his favourite medium. He created a fairytale world, a blend of weightlessness, transparency and harmonious gradations of colour to arouse the viewer's imagination.

He engaged in many types of art: painting, sculpture, tapestry and stained glass. For over forty years, Folon illustrated literary works (by Jacques Prévert, Giorgio Soavi and Guillaume Apollinaire, to name but three writers) and placed his talent at the service of poster campaigns for major causes dear to his heart (Unicef, Greenpeace and Amnesty International). He died on 20 October 2005 in Monaco, where he had settled in 1983.

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

### **Times: Open every day:**

- From 1 May to 30 September: 10am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 6pm.
- From 1 October to 30 April: 10.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4pm.

The chapel is closed in November, on December 25 and January 1.

### **Prices: Combined ticket for White Penitents' Chapel decorated by Folon + Local History Museum:**

- Full price: €4
- Reduced price (students, children up to 16): €3
- Family ticket (2 adults + 2 children): €12
- Group (more than 10 people): €3 each
- Free for children under 6

Tickets on sale opposite the chapel at the Musée d'Histoire Locale.

**Guided tours: The Tourist Office organizes guided tours of the White Penitents' chapel decorated by Folon.**

Information and reservation:

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[www.saint-pauldevence.com](http://www.saint-pauldevence.com)

**Download photos from the library on the website.**

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