

JEAN-MICHEL FOLON

BIOGRAPHY

- 1934 Born March, in Uccle, Belgium.
- 1955 Abandons his architecture studies, leaves Brussels to devote himself to drawing and sets off for Paris.
- 1960 Published in *Horizon*, *Esquire*, and *The New Yorker*.
Visited the US.
- 1967 Published in *Fortune* and *Atlantic Monthly*; Time publishes four covers over subsequent years.
Traveled to Italy, meets writer Giorgio Soavi and draws his first book, *Le message*.
- 1968 Designs a mural for the French pavilion at the Milan Triennale, Italy.
- 1973 Illustrated *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. Alice Editions publishes a collection of watercolors, *La mort d'un arbre*, for which he also wrote the text. Awarded the Grand Prix at the 12th Bienal in São Paulo, Brazil.
- 1975 *Lettres à Giorgio*, published by Alice Editions.
- 1978 Illustrates *Alcools* and *Calligrammes*, by Guillaume Apollinaire.
- 1979 Illustrates Ray Bradbury's *Martian Chronicles* and the complete works of Jacques Prévert in seven volumes.
- 1980 Illustrates *L'Automne à Pékin*, by Boris Vian; *L'inutile beauté*, by Guy de Maupassant.
- 1981 Designed the sets for works by Frank Martin and Giacomo Puccini, the Grand Théâtre, Geneva, Switzerland. Produces projected images for *The Soldier's Tale*, by Igor Stravinsky, the Théâtre de la vie, Brussels, Belgium.
- 1984 Illustrates the poetic works of Guillaume Apollinaire and *Pluies de New-York* by Albert Camus.
- 1985 Paints a mural 14 stories high, close to the Porte d'Italie, Paris.
- 1986 Engraves the album *Lointains*, and starts sculpting objects in wood.
- 1988 *A propos de la Création*. Illustrates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for Amnesty International.
- 1989 Designed sets for the Teatro Goldoni in Venice and the Teatro Argentina in Rome. Created large tapestry for the Palais des Congrès in Monaco.
- 1990 Began building boats with all sorts of different materials.
- 1991 Collaborated in Italy with Alberto Meomartini to make animated films, large posters following the theme of environmental protection. Produced his first bronze pieces.

- 1992 Illustrates *The Invisible Man* by H. G. Wells
- 1995 Illustrates a dozen of La Fontaine's *Fables* for Nuages Edizioni in Milan.
- 1999 Celebrated December 31, in Pietrasanta, Italy, where 2,000 candles are placed and lit on terracotta hands which he has sculpted, in memory of the past 2,000 years.
- 2000 The Folon Foundation is inaugurated in October at the Solvay estate, located just outside Brussels, where he spent his childhood.
- 2002 Created a hot-air balloon for the "Air Show" organized by the Ministry of the Environment of the Walloon Region in Belgium.
- 2003 Appointed a UNICEF ambassador; decorated with the Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur, France. Created sets and costumes for *La Bohème*, Puccini Festival, Italy.
- 2005 Died October, in Monaco

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1964 *Le Palimugre*, Jean-Jacques Pauvert's bookshop, Paris
- 1968 Milan Triennale, Milan, Italy
Galerie de France, Paris
Museum of Modern Art in New York, New York
- 1969 Lefebvre Gallery, New York
- 1970 Tokyo and Osaka, Japan
The 35th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 1971 Musée des arts décoratifs in Paris, Paris
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi, Belgium
Musée d'art moderne , Brussels, Belgium
Castello Sforezesco, Milan, Italy
Galleria del Milione, Milan, Italy
- 1972 Art club, Chicago
- 1974 Studio Marconi, Milan, Italy
- 1976 Musée Boymans-van-Beuningen, Rotterdam, Belgium
Deutsches Plakatmuseum, Essen, Germany
- 1977 Institute of Contemporary Art, London
- 1979 Berggruen Gallery, Paris
- 1984 La Défense, Paris
Picasso Museum, Antibes, France

- 1985 *Retrospective*, Tokyo, Osaka and Kamakura, Japan
Correr Museum, Venice, Italy
- 1987 *Exhibition with Milton Glaser*, the Museo de Bellas Artesm,
Buenos Aires, Argentina
The Musée Botanique, Brussels, Belgium
- 1989 The Poster Museum, Lahti, Finland
The Musée de l’Affiche, Toulouse, France
- 1990 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Marino Marini Museum, Florence, Italy
- 1991 *Notre Terre*, a series of engravings and posters evoking the
protection of the environment, assembled and traveled
in small towns in France
- 1992 *The Invisible Man*, by H. G. Wells, illustrations, Galleria Nuages,
Milan, Italy
- 1993 An exhibition of sculptures, staged by La Caixa de Catalunya,
at La Pedrera, a building by Gaudí in Barcelona, Spain
- 1994 Marisa Del Rey Gallery, New York
- 1995 Bunkamura Museum, Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan
- 1996 *Retrospective*, the Musée Olympique, Lausanne, Switzerland
The Museo Morandi, Bologna, Italy
- 1997 Exhibition, the casino in Knokke-Le-Zoute, Belgium
- 1999 Elzenveld, Antwerp, Belgium
Galleria Il Chiostro in Saronno, and at the Galleria André, Rome
- 2000 Galerie Guy Pieters, Saint-Paul de Vence, France
- 2001 Galerie Guy Pieters, Sint-Martens-Lathem, Belgium
Sculptures in bronze and marble, including a bronze sculpture
in memory of the Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa, Saint
Georges Castle, organized by the City of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2002 Galerie Guy Pieters, Saint-Paul de Vence, France
- 2003 Galerie Guy Pieters, Knokke-Le-Zoute, Belgium
The Palazzo Ducale, Lucca, Italy
- 2005 *Folon Firenze*, the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, Italy
Folon Chianti, exposition organized by Giorgio Morandi Study
Centre, Bologna, Italy; traveled in Tuscany, Italy

SELECTED PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

Brussels Metro, Brussels, Belgium

Waterloo Station, London

The Porte d'Italie, Paris

Chapel at Mont-Agel, Chartres, France

The Casino in Knokke-Le-Zoute, Belgium

The Old Church in Burcy, France

The Parc Royal, Brussels, Belgium

Brussels Airport, Zaventem, Belgium

A Brasileria Cafe, Lisbon, Portugal

Durbuy, Belgium

Chapelle des Pénitents Blancs, Saint-Paul de Vence, France