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For Immediate Release

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**French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), Consulate General of Monaco,  
and Monaco Government Tourist Office in New York**  
present

## **Gabriele Basilico**

# ***Mythical Monte-Carlo: 150 Years in the Making***

**Thursday, June 20–Friday, August 23**

and

## **Special Screening *Monte-Carlo, Birth of a Legend***

**Wednesday, June 19 at 8pm**

**FIAF Gallery • Florence Gould Hall  
22 East 60th Street, NYC**

**New York, NY, June 13, 2013**—To celebrate the fabled history of Monte Carlo, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), New York's premier French cultural center, joins the Consulate General of Monaco and the Monaco Government Tourist Office in New York to present *Mythical Monte-Carlo: 150 Years in the Making*, an exhibition exploring the remarkable architecture of this captivating Principality on the Mediterranean, as seen through the lens of award-winning documentary photographer Gabriele Basilico (1944-2013). *Mythical Monte-Carlo* will be on view at the FIAF Gallery from Thursday, June 20 through Friday, August 23.

The exhibition features a selection of works from *MONACOPOLIS: Architecture, Urbanism and Urbanization in Monaco, Realizations and Projects – 1858-2012* from the Nouveau Musée National of Monaco (NMNM), curated by Nathalie Giordano-Rosticher, Curator in Chief of the NMNM.

As a complement to this exhibition, FIAF will screen *Monte-Carlo, Birth of a Legend* on Wednesday, June 19 at 8pm. This docudrama, written by Kate Krasuski and directed by François Freynet, recounts the fascinating, behind-the-scenes story of Monte-Carlo's creation.

"The ties between Monaco, France, and the USA are deep and binding, so it is quite fitting—and we are delighted—that Monaco's Consulate and Tourist office in New York are collaborating with FIAF to celebrate



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150 years of Monte-Carlo style,” said Maguy Maccario Doyle, consul general and director of the Monaco Government Tourist Office (North America).

“It is a true pleasure for us to partner with Monte-Carlo SBM Hotels & Casinos—who mark their 150th anniversary this year—and the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, to welcome visitors to this exhibition by award-winning photographer, Gabriele Basilico, which showcases the eclectic architecture of our Principality on the Mediterranean Sea.”

**Gabriele Basilico: *Mythical Monte-Carlo: 150 Years in the Making*  
Thursday, June 20—Friday, August 23, FIAF Gallery**

In 2006, the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco commissioned Gabriele Basilico to photograph the legendary destination, resulting in over 200 photographs. His vision revealed a Principality shaped by history, labyrinthine urban development, and its geographic location between the mountains and the sea.

Born in Milan, Basilico was an award-winning photographer known for capturing the world’s largest metropolises, including Beirut, Sao Paolo, San Francisco, and Naples. He began his career documenting the industrialization of Milan and the transformation of the transalpine landscape.

The exhibition also features archival footage evoking the history of the Principality of Monaco, including an interview of Prince Rainier (the “Builder Prince”) from the film *Rainier de Monaco Prince & PDG*, and an installation of postcards in the shape of Monaco, commissioned by the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco and designed by Åbäke, London and Nathalie Rosticher Giordano, Chief Curator at NNMM.

**Special Screening**

***Monte-Carlo, naissance d’un mythe (Monte-Carlo, Birth of a Legend)***

**Wednesday, June 19 at 8pm, Florence Gould Hall**

*François Freynet, 2007. Color. 52 min*

*In French with English subtitles.*

150 years ago an unprecedented adventure began in one of the smallest Principalities in Europe. Within less than twenty years, a simple plateau of farmland on the Mediterranean coast would become one of the most celebrated destinations in the world, and a dazzling symbol of prosperity: Monte-Carlo.

The main players in this success were an intrepid French financier and a romantic, young German woman with a gift for the arts and a love for Belle Epoque design. Their names were François Blanc and Marie Hensel. These two relative unknowns founded the famed Société des Bains de Mer of Monte-Carlo, which today manages a vast heritage.

It is the storybook tale of an exceptional, passionate couple, the visionary creators of the myth of Monte-Carlo at the end of the nineteenth century. Travel back in time to discover the princes, dukes, Russian colonels, writers Alexandre Dumas and Jules Verne, composers Camille Saint-Saëns and Jules Massenet, the Rockefellers, and many other celebrities and statesmen who have imbued Monte-Carlo with its illustrious history.

In English. Free. Limited capacity. RSVP to [galerie@fiaf.org](mailto:galerie@fiaf.org)



**About Gabriele Basilico**

Born in Milan in 1944, Basilico was an award-winning photographer known for capturing the world’s largest metropolises, including Beirut, Sao Paolo, San Francisco, and Naples. After studying architecture, Basilico

began his career photographing the factories of Milan. He was then commissioned by the French Government, alongside an international group of photographers, to document the transformation of the transalpine landscape. Basilico photographed the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1990, and accepted a commission in 1991 to photograph Beirut and the effects of fifteen years of civil war within Lebanon's capital. In 1994, The Foundation Gottardo, Lugano hosted the first retrospective of Basilico's work, and he was awarded the prestigious Osella d'Oro award at the Venice Biennale in 1996. Basilico's photographs have been the subject of numerous international museum exhibitions, Biennials and publications, including the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, which hosted the largest retrospective of his works to date. Gabriele Basilico died on February 13, 2013.

### About François Freynet

François Freynet has written and directed documentaries for French TV including *France 2*, *France 3*, *France 5*, and *Groupe Canal Plus*. In 1994, Freynet directed the series *Les Amants du Siècle* for Frédéric Mitterrand. Since then, his writer/director credits have included *Les passagers du 20h02* (1997) and *Des chiens en analyse* (1999) as well as docu-dramas for *Disney*, the *Disney Club*, and *Disney Parade* TV shows, and the 52-minute documentary/drama *Monte-Carlo, Birth of a Legend* (2007). He established his company, *Movies Productions* in May 2008. Freynet is also a professor of screenwriting, a documentary judge, and a lecturer on filmmaking for the International Institute of Image and Sound near Paris.

### About Kate Krasuski

With a background in public relations, Nice-based Kate Krasuski handles communications and PR for audio-visual productions, music concerts, and jazz festivals. She has been a booking agent for Harry Lapp Organization (Nice Jazz Festival, Jazz à Juan, Les Enfants de Django, Roy Hargrove, Ballets de Kazan, Tango Pasion, Sidney Bechet Memory All Stars, Porgy & Bess), AA Organisation (100 Violons Tziganes de Budapest, Rock The Ballet, Ain't Misbehavin'), and Live Music International (Craig Adams & The Voices of New Orleans, Miss Jean Carpenter, Davell Crawford, Nicole Slake Jones, La Nuit du Gospel). In 2007, she co-wrote, with François Freynet, the 52-minute documentary/drama, *Monte-Carlo, Birth of a Legend*.

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### Gabriele Basilico: *Mythical Monte-Carlo Images*

© Gabriele Basilico / NNMM / ADAGP, Paris 2013  
Monte-Carlo 05 2A 12-74, 2005  
Gelatin Silver Print  
15.75 in x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm  
Control of the Association of Friends of NNMM  
Collection New National Museum of Monaco (inv. 2007.13.46)  
<http://www.fiaf.org/press/2013-06/monte-carlo/basilico1.jpg>

© Gabriele Basilico / NNMM / ADAGP, Paris 2013  
Monte-Carlo 05 2A 12-254, 2005  
Gelatin Silver Print  
15.75 in x 11.8 in | 40 x 30 cm  
Control of the Association of Friends of NNMM  
Collection New National Museum of Monaco (inv. 2007.13.155)  
<http://www.fiaf.org/press/2013-06/monte-carlo/basilico2.jpg>

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### About the Consulate General of Monaco & Monaco Government Tourist Office

The only accredited Consulate General of Monaco in North America ([www.monaco-consulate.com](http://www.monaco-consulate.com)) provides consular services, cultural and general information. The Consulate also organizes exclusive promotional and philanthropic events and activities to benefit charitable endeavors, many of which are held under the patronage of the Princely Family, including the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation-USA and the Princess Grace



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Foundation-USA. The Monaco Government Tourist Office ([www.visitmonaco.com/us](http://www.visitmonaco.com/us)) offers personalized tourism advice and information for individuals, group and business travel.

### About the Visual Arts at FIAF

Since its opening in April 2007, the FIAF exhibition space has been an invaluable addition to the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) and its cultural programs. It provides a significant platform for cultural discourse between American and Francophone artists and cultures.

### About FIAF

FIAF's mission is to create and offer New Yorkers innovative and unique programs in education and the arts that explore the evolving diversity and richness of French cultures. FIAF seeks to generate new ideas and promote cross cultural dialogue through partnerships and new platforms of expression. [www.fiaf.org](http://www.fiaf.org)

### Merci!

Special thanks to Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, & Monte-Carlo SBM Hotels & Casinos.

FIAF would like to thank the following spring and summer season sponsors:

American Airlines, the official airline of FIAF; OpenSkies; the Cultural Services of the French Embassy; Florence Gould Foundation; Institut français; New York State Council on the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust; and Robert de Rothschild

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**LISTING SUMMARY**

**What:** **Gabriele Basilico: *Mythical Monte-Carlo: 150 Years in the Making***  
**When:** Thursday, June 20–Friday, August 23, 2013  
**Where:** FIAF Gallery  
22 East 60th Street (between Park and Madison Avenues)  
**Admission:** Free and open to the public  
**Information:** [fiaf.org](http://fiaf.org) | 212 355 6100  
[www.MonacoTakesNewYork.com](http://www.MonacoTakesNewYork.com)  
**Transportation:** Subway—4, 5, 6, N, R and Q to 59th Street & Lexington Avenue;  
F to 63rd Street & Lexington Avenue  
Bus - M1, M2, M3, M4, Q31 to 59th Street; M5 to 58th Street

**LISTING SUMMARY**

**What:** **Special Screening**  
***Monte-Carlo, Birth of a Legend***  
**When:** Wednesday, June 19, 8pm  
**Where:** FIAF; Florence Gould Hall  
Enter at 22 East 60th Street (between Park and Madison Avenue)  
**Admission:** Free and open to the public  
RSVP required to [galler@fiaf.org](mailto:galler@fiaf.org)  
**Tickets:** [fiaf.org](http://fiaf.org) | 800 982 2787  
**Information:** [fiaf.org](http://fiaf.org) | 212 355 6160  
[www.MonacoTakesNewYork.com](http://www.MonacoTakesNewYork.com)  
**Transportation:** Subway—4, 5, 6, N, R and Q to 59th Street & Lexington Avenue;



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