

LA SAISON
DE LA
LITUANIE
EN
FRANCE
2024

Lithuanians on the Riviera

Antanas Liutkus photographs
1941 - 1953

La Citadelle
Centre d'art & Musées
Place Emmanuel Philibert
Villefranche-sur-Mer

Tous les jours
10h - 17h

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16 novembre 2024 – 26 janvier 2025
La Citadelle – Chapelle Saint-Elme



Manifestation organisée dans le cadre de la Saison de la Lituanie en France 2024
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FRANCAISE
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LA CITADELLE

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Lithuanians on the Riviera

Between 1941 and 1953, Villefranche-sur-Mer played host to an emblematic figure of 20th-century Lithuania: Antanas Liutkus (1906-1970). A career diplomat, but also a painter and photographer, he captured, through his lens, moments in the life of a Lithuanian community that, in the troubled times of war and reparation, found refuge on the Mediterranean shores. His photographs, alternating between intimate moments and political encounters, provide a precious record of this period. Antanas Liutkus was not only a political representative of Lithuania in exile, he was also a keen observer of his time and a witness to the history of his community.

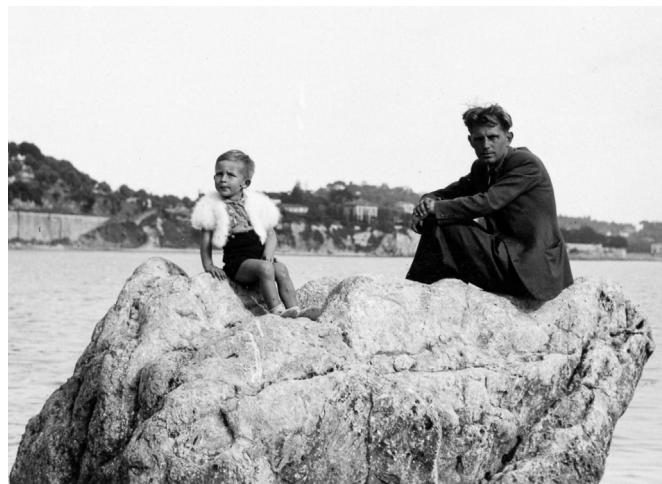
In Villefranche-sur-Mer, he helped attract a diaspora of Lithuanian intellectuals, artists and literary figures, while celebrating the vibrant traditions and culture of their homeland. His passion for photography, far from being a mere distraction, has asserted itself as a privileged means of expression to bear witness and pay homage, while capturing moments of contemplation of the landscape.

The photographs presented in this exhibition were deposited with the Lithuanian National Archives by his son Perkunas Liutkus, a Villefranchois resident whose first name means "thunder" and who has put all his energy into making his father's work known.

Accompanied by his sister Eglé and brother Antanas, he offers us a unique insight into this visual heritage, which has already been presented for the first time in Kaunas, Lithuania, in collaboration with the President Adamkus Library. Thanks to this exceptional loan, these works are now accessible here, enabling the public to discover the moving journey of this community in exile.

The exhibition, organised as part of the Season of Lithuania in France 2024, is intended not only as a tribute to Antanas Liutkus, his artistic talent and his political commitment, but also as a celebration of the Lithuanian community of Villefranche-sur-Mer.

Through images imbued with nostalgia and beauty, we are invited to relive a time not so long ago, when art and diplomacy came together to build cultural bridges between two lands, between two histories.



La Citadelle would like to thank Perkunas Liutkas, the Director of the President V. Adamkus Library-Museum Arūnas Antanaičius, the staff of the Lithuanian Expatriate Institute of Vytautas Magnus University and the artist Gediminas Šibonis, as well as the Commissioner of the Lithuanian Season in France, Virginija Vitkienė, and the organisers of the Lithuanian Season in France 2024.

Lietuviai Rivjeroje

Villefranche-sur-Mer 1941 – 1953 metais gyveno Antanas Liutkus (1906 - 1970), išskili Lietuvos XX-ojo amžiaus asmenybė. Diplomas, kartu dailininkas ir fotografas, šis ypatingo likimo žmogus fotoaparato objektyvu jamžino Lietuvių bendruomenės gyvenimo akimirkas, anais sumaištintais karo bei pokario laikais radusios prieglobstį Viduržemio jūros pakrantėje. Šios nuotraukos, kuriose asmenio gyvenimo akimirkos siejasi su politikos vingiais, – labai vertingas to laikotarpio metraštis.



panirti į vaizdinį paveldą, pirmą kartą eksponuotą Lietuvoje, Kaune, bendradarbiaujant su Prezidento Valdo Adamkaus biblioteka. Atkeliausis pas mus, ši paroda leis geriau pažinti, kaip anuomet čia gyveno Lietuvių bendruomenę.

Paroda, Lietuvos Sezono Prancūzijoje 2024 metais programos dalis, skirta ne tik pagerbti Antaną Liutką, jo meninį talentą ir politinį angažuotumą, bet sykiu ir Lietuvių bendruomenę Villefranche-sur-Mer. Nostalgijos ir grožio smelkiami vaizdai kviečia išgyventi ne taip senus laikus, kai menas ir diplomatija tiesė kultūrinius tiltus tarp dviejų šalių ir jų istorijų.

La Citadelle širdingai dėkoja Perkūnui Liutkui, Prezidento V. Adamkaus bibliotekos-muziejaus direktoriui Arūnui Antanaičiui, Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto Lietuvių išeivijos instituto darbuotojams ir dailininkui Gediminui Šiboniui, taip pat Lietuvos sezono Prancūzijoje Komisarei Virginijai Vitkienėi bei visiems Lietuvos sezono Prancūzijoje 2024 m. rengėjams.