

The Senate presents



# PRESS KIT THE HONEY ROADS

An exhibition  
by **Éric TOURNERET**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 - JANUARY 19, 2016**

Fences of the Luxembourg Gardens

Rue de Médicis - 75006 Paris - Free admission







The Senate presents

# THE HONEY ROADS

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The photographer Éric Tournieret takes us on the “honey road” into a fascinating world. Through their beauty and their originality, his 80 photos exhibited on the fences of the Luxembourg Gardens explore all the facets of the thousand year old quest for that elixir of many virtues.

From the roofs of Paris to the Australian bush, this bee-loving photographer set off to discover the singular relationship that men and women, on all continents, have with the world of bees. His remarkable work has appeared in many international publications. He witnesses the honey harvests anchored in traditions, sometimes the very oldest, but also the beekeeping incorporated into the urban fabric while at the same time bees are being exposed to a diversity of dangers.

The Luxembourg Gardens offers a living illustration of this urban apiculture with its present-day apiary school that perpetuates this quite singular beekeeping tradition right in the heart of the capital and of which the origins date back to the 19th century when the Senate’s Grand Référendaire accorded a concession to the French Society for Beekeeping.

I invite you, on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change CDP-COP21 in Paris, for which the Senate has mobilized, to come discover these amazing photographs.”

**Gérard Larcher**





« Save the bees,  
save humanity  
and save life on Earth...»

**Freelance photographer since 1989, Éric Tournet  
is today recognized internationally as the «bee photographer».  
He presently lives in the Ardèche region of France.**

His childhood near Annecy, France, between lakes and mountains, attuned him to the beauty of natural settings. At the age of 17, he discovered traveling, Africa, the desert and encounters with other cultures. He was introduced to photography in studios where he worked with fashion and advertising photographers, with specialists in lighting and visual creation. He then travelled the world during fifteen years bringing back ethnic and social feature stories for the magazine press. He considers photography as a "recounting tool", "a tool for meeting others"..

When French beekeepers' efforts to have systemic insecticides prohibited alerted him to the disappearance of the bees, Éric began an in-depth work in 2004 on apiculture by immersing himself in the life of the hive. Exhibited at the Orangerie of the Senate in 2006, his innovative photographs were put together in a first published work «Le peuple des abeilles» (The Bee Nation) and have appeared in many publications in the international press.

In 2007, he expanded his investigations onto a worldwide scale with a series of features on the relation of humans to bees, from the most archaic harvesting methods to industrial and commercial beekeeping, in Nepal, Cameroon, Russia, Argentina, Mexico, New Zealand, the USA, Romania... His work was published in 2009 under the title «Cueilleurs de miel» (The Honey Gatherers). Exhibited at photography festivals, in natural history museums, botanical and remarkable gardens, his images testify to a world in transition and reveal the causes of the disappearance of the bees.

Since, Éric Tournet has continued his travels, exploring the great beekeeping traditions in Slovenia, Germany and Turkey. He has encountered the nomads of Ethiopia and the Pygmies of the Republic of the Congo, the giant bees of India and Indonesia, the stingless bees of Brazil, Costa Rica and also the killer bees of Panama. He has discovered urban apiculture in New York, London, Berlin, Hong Kong... and the dangerous Asian hornet that has arrived in France, the perpetual honey flows in Australia and hand pollination in China.

These ten years of discovering bees and peoples have resulted in the publication of «Les Routes du Miel» by Éditions Hozhoni (September 2015) and the eponymous exhibition on the Fences of the Senate.

Éric Tournet's work was recently exhibited at the United Nations in Geneva.



### **FRANCE – La Salvetat-sur-Agout - Hérault**

In summer, a colony numbers 60,000 to 80,000 bees. The population is made up of an impregnated queen bee that lays close to 2000 eggs per day, a few hundred male bees called drones and the worker bees. The workers carry out jobs according to their age and their physiological development; they have, successively, the functions of cleaner, nurse, worker inside the hive, wax producer, guard, and finally pollen gatherer, starting at the age of twenty days and until they die of exhaustion.

During the swarming (the moment when half the bees from a colony leave with a queen in search of a habitat to start a new colony), it is the most experienced bees that participate in the choice of the new habitat.



## SHARING THE GREAT STORY OF BEES AND MAN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

**That is the aspiration of the exhibition «The Honey Roads», the fruit of Éric Tournet many years of work, presented by the Senate on the Fences of the Luxembourg Gardens**

Throughout the world and since the dawn of time, honey has been humankind's fundamental food and first medicine. Éric Tournet invites us to discover, through 80 exceptional photos, the world of the bees and the diversity of honey harvesting strategies that people have developed for their love of honey.

This vast fresco is the fruit of ten years of reporting in 20 countries on the five continents. From the nomad herders in the Omo Valley of Ethiopia, where mead flows freely during the initiation of the young men, to the honey industrialists who transport their hives by the truckloads for the big transhumance, to the Irulas of southern India who brave the steep cliffs to harvest the honey from the giant bees.

«The Honey Roads» also transports us into the heart of the hive, from the intimate moment when the queen, surrounded by her court, moves along the wax cells to find one in which to lay an egg to the return of the foraging bees loaded with nectar and pollen.

Éric Tournet's photos are an invitation on a journey. They amaze, fill with awe, recount the beauty and immense diversity of the world of the bees. A world that we share with them and in which they play an indispensable role: the exhibition also speaks of the vital importance of pollination, essential to farming and to the genetic mix of plants. Creators and guarantors of biodiversity, bees are one of the species that ensures lasting life on earth. However, they are disappearing.

Our challenge today is to develop a responsible management system of our resources and prepare ourselves for climate changes while accommodating both the well-being of the world's populations and the preservation of the ecosystems.

More and more cut off from nature, it is difficult for us to imagine that agriculture can be a breeding ground for innovation. Advances made in agronomy - agroforestry, permaculture - and the sharing of knowledge brought to us by the revolution in communications, offer an extraordinary chance to humankind: that of making peace with nature, producing quality food without chemical additives for everyone and preserving the resources essential to life, the air, water, flowering plants, the bees... the whole life chain of which we are ultimately just a minuscule and very recent link..





## ETHIOPIA – The Omo Valley

A child passes through the camp's fence where a hive is waiting to be installed. The tribe of nomad herders, the Hamar, numbers 40,000 people. Still very traditional, they live mainly from pastoralism.

# EDITORIAL



“Each of my feature stories has helped me better understand bees, who teach me humanity and humility. I am amazed by their incredible diversity, their intelligence and the collective genius that gives life to their colonies and allows for their constant adaptation to the different seasons and to

climate change through a regulation of their populations based on the abundance or the lack of resources.

In observing a hive, I have the impression that I'm discovering 80 million years of genetic mixing, recounted by the competition among drones during the queen's nuptial flight, which ensures the diversity of the worker bees, half-sisters from different fathers, within the colony. The swarming - the division of a nest to create a new line around a queen - evokes for me the great migrations by human beings, the dispersal of people over our planet and the emergence of cultures and traditions.

My years spent meeting beekeepers and honey hunters throughout the world have shown me the talent of the people who, to appropriate the honey, have acquired knowledge of the fragile balances that regulate the production of nectar by the flowers. I marvel at the expertise of beekeepers who have learned to “manage” the colonies' dynamism to lead them to produce even more honey in ever-changing conditions. All of it shows me humankind's dependence on our environment and our genius in taking advantage of it.

Today, faced with the biggest disappearance of a species that our Earth has ever known since the Cretaceous period, faced with the risks to which our own species is exposed, I can only wonder what meaning the word progress will have for future generations. Can progress be collective and lasting? Are we capable, together, of making peace with nature? Of redefining our place on an earth of limited resources?

I hope that the exhibition «The Honey Roads» will add to the raising of awareness and the determination that will permit the preservation of the bees and of the free service they provide to the human race.”

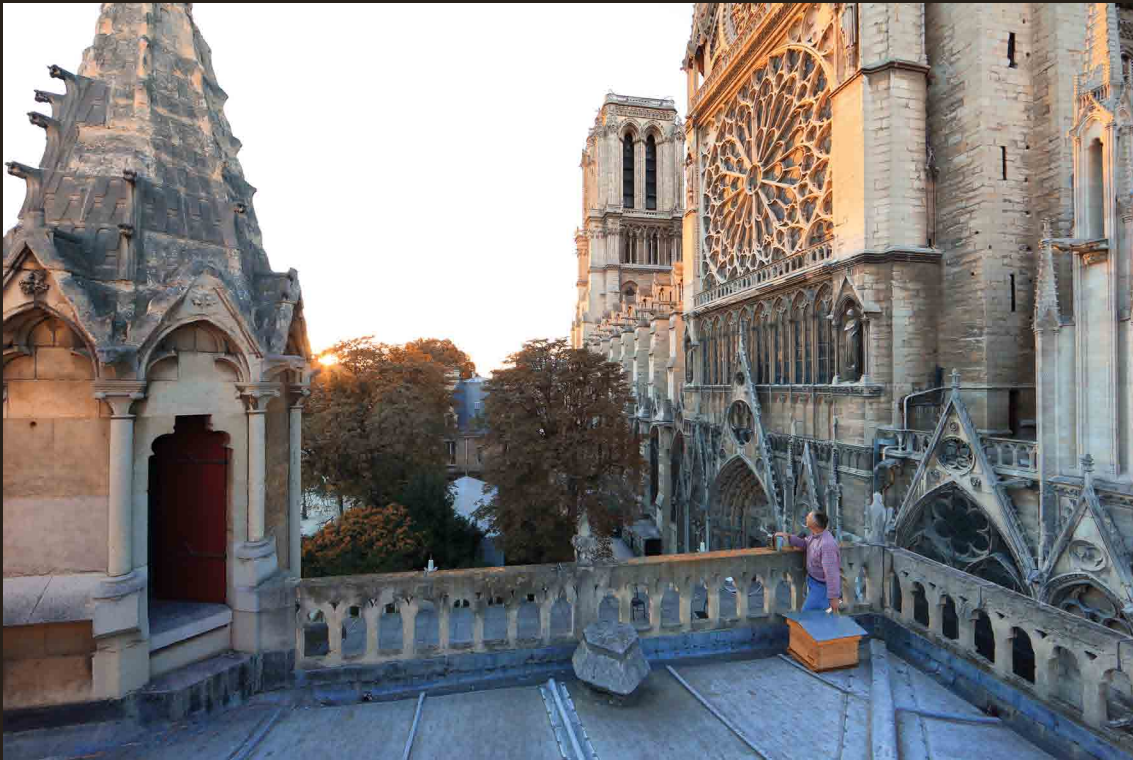
Éric Tourneret



### **FRANCE – Toulouse**

Face-off between David and Goliath on a wax frame during the opening of a hive by a beekeeper. The bee has no chance of beating the fearsome predator that is the Asian hornet *Vespa velutina*. Arriving in 2004 in the Lot-et-Garonne in pottery imported from China, this invasive species has colonized 70% of French territory in 10 years, little by little supplanting the European hornet or *Vespa crabro*. It is present in Belgium, in the north of Spain, Portugal and Italy and without doubt in Eastern Europe.





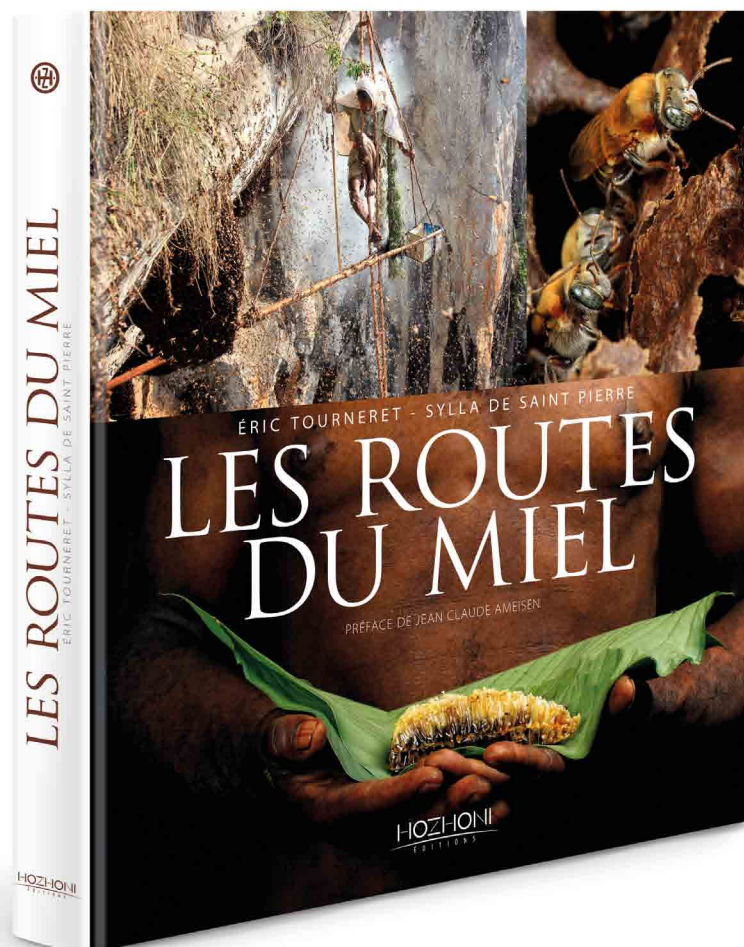
## FRANCE - PARIS

The beekeeper Nicolas Géant on the roof of the bishop's palace of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. «I am living a childhood dream, keeping bees at Notre-Dame. When you understand the importance of bees for the Catholic Church throughout history, the importance of wax for lighting in the churches, for me there is much meaning...» Today, Nicolas Géant has a stock of 800 hives in the west of Paris and takes care of nearly 150 hives set up on the roofs of big companies in the Paris metropolitan area.



## INDIA - Tamil Nadu State, the Nilgiris Biosphere

*Irula* women loading the vats of honey at the resource centre of the Keystone Foundation of Hasanur. The objective of this Foundation is to help the tribes of Untouchables in the Nilgiris biosphere to access a harmonious development by promoting their culture and the products of the forest. Here, seven *Irula* women from the village of Thaladasalatti prepare and package the finished products, such as the jams, honey, the nuts and the millet. The year before, the Keystone Foundation marketed close to 16 tons of honey..



Release date: September 17, 2015 - Format: 29 x 31 cm - 356 pages - Price: 45 € - ISBN: 978-2-37241-005-2

A fascinating planetary chronicle in images of Man and the bee, this breakthrough book is the fruit of the encounter between two people devoted to bees: Éric Tournéret and Bernard Chevilliat, a former professional beekeeper and founder of Melvita and Éditions Hozhoni.

**T**hroughout the world and since thousands of years ago, the bee has coexisted with humans. Gatherer, keeper or thief, everywhere the latter has striven to tame the bee to extract its divine elixir. And if today we better appreciate the bees' decisive role in the propagation of life, getting to know the practices and customs that surround them also becomes the most fascinating of journeys.

At the top of the giant trees of Indonesia, on the cliffs inhabited by the Irula people in India, in the Omo Valley, in Turkey, Brazil or in the Australian bush with the amazing honey ants, Eric Tournéret invites us to travel the "honey roads", today threatened by global standardization.

Unapologetic adventurer, "the bee photographer" shares here his travel notes, transcribed by Sylla de Saint-Pierre, and his most amazing photos, taken in 23 countries over the course of the last ten years.

Passionate about the biology and the future of those exceptional purveyors of life that are the bees, **he has asked a dozen scientists to share their perspectives on the lesser known aspects of the bees' democracy as well as the dangers that threaten them.**

From the love of flowers to the rare and precious honeys of the world, while visiting the stingless bees, the traveler bees, the new fashion of urban beekeeping or the impressive Asian hornet, we encounter here, with the best of guides, everything from honey madness to the oldest apicultural traditions.

The fascinating beauty of the images and the imminence of the foreseen disappearance of bees make this work the most gripping of testimonies ever produced about the "daughters of the sun".





## Preface by Jean Claude Ameisen

"Eric Tournieret photos show us the splendor of the immense tapestry woven by honey bees and flowering plants throughout the world. But it also reveals to us the striking splendor of another tapestry, one that human cultures have woven with the bees and honey since time immemorial.

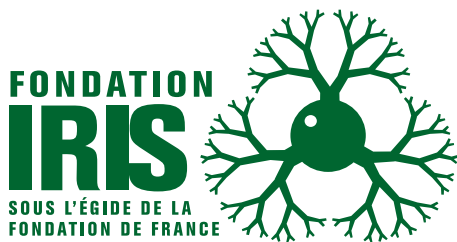
And now, nearly everywhere, deforestation or intensive farming and the use of pesticides threaten the bees and this ancestral know-how. In Sichuan, China, the bees have disappeared and the farmers pollinate manually, one by one, the white flowers of the pear trees in their immense orchards.

On all the continents, Eric Tournieret went out to meet those men and women and bees. Many have become his friends. We find in "The Honey Roads", the story of these encounters. With the perspective of bee specialists and ethnologists, this book helps us discover the many splendors of a disappearing world. But it is also an appeal. An appeal to preserve nature's capacities for renewal and to respect the diversity of human cultural practices.

An appeal to build a more just world that permits each and everyone to share its wonders and riches."

Jean Claude Ameisen

# THE BEES' SPONSORS



**The Fondation Iris, a private foundation under the auspices of the Fondation de France, has the mission of aiding in the preservation of the world's fragile beauty.**

It supports charitable associations, NGOs, scientists and artists whose works permit us to better See, Understand, Love and Protect the planet, its landscapes and its biodiversity.

**The IRIS Foundation has chosen to support the remarkable work of Éric Tournet, whose camera has captured the beauty of the minuscule universe of the bees. His eye fills our eyes with wonder. Through his lens, we join in the dance and understand a bit better the life of these insects, these gifted foragers. We can't help but be moved by such ardor for life.**

These images are a homage to the beekeepers throughout the world who succeeded in domesticating the bees and they testify also to the immense service that these tiny beings provide through their role as pollinators.

**May this exhibition contribute to a more general awareness, leading us to ban the deadly use of pesticides and insecticides and to collectively opt for an agriculture that respects life.**

 [www.fondationiris.org](http://www.fondationiris.org)

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**La Petite Reine, the eco-responsible solution from the Star's Service Group.**

For 30 years, the Star's Service Group has put at its customers' service all its expertise in last-mile logistics. Thanks to its know-how, it is today the leader in the field but what counts for all our collaborators is being able to meet all the technical, economic and environmental challenges. For that, we have not ceased to innovate and reinvent our profession.

Conscientious about the planet's future, we act today with consideration for tomorrow.

- La Petite Reine, a fleet of 150 electric vehicles (Cargocycles® and Kangoo ZE)
- The regular replacement of the fleet (new vehicles meeting the Euro 5 or Euro 6 standards)
- The training of our drivers in ecodriving
- The voluntary signing of the ADEME Ile-de-France charter of commitment "Objectif CO2"
- The support of the Good Planet Foundation

**Sponsoring the exhibition "The Honey Roads" is a new way for the Star's Service Group to participate in raising the public's awareness of sustainable development and the preservation of our resources.**

 [www.stars-service.com](http://www.stars-service.com)





### **Insect hotels, intelligent hives...**

#### **GRTgaz is putting its network to the service of biodiversity.**

GRTgaz exploits in France the premier network of natural gas transport in Europe: 32,000 km of underground piping supply the territory in all discreetness. Indicated by yellow markers, the pipes are accessible for maintenance thanks to the easement strips that we put in the service of biodiversity. This ecological management preserves the eco-systems and natural continuity and contributes to the protection of threatened species.

**We install insect hotels to facilitate the reproduction of wild bees. We house intelligent hives to measure the colonies' vitality. We support the "Concours national des Prairies Fleuries" that helps provide food for them. We help small towns to realize their biodiversity atlas and thus better understand and protect their bees.**



#### **Icko Apiculture, European leader in apiculture materials.**

Apiculturists for 70 years, our experience permits us to offer professional and amateur beekeepers the products and materials suited to their needs. Our objective is to put the accent on the eco-performance of the tools by providing a wide range of models, to help the apicultural sector optimize its production all while respecting the environment. Bees teach us about sustainable exploitation of natural resources and apiculture constitutes a favorable means of maintaining biodiversity. The products from the hive have little impact on the planet and pollination by the bees deserves to be a symbol of the Earth's future. Will the beekeeper be the superhero of a sustainable society? What is certain, is that the role of this actor in an ecologically responsible world is proving to be a determinant factor.

**Icko Apiculture works with local authorities to create flowering cities, honey cities! Planting intelligently, to tomorrow see towns and public spaces abounding in nectar sources and preserving the bees.**



#### **Since 1921, the Famille Mary has been harvesting and selecting exceptional honeys.**

Thanks to a know-how coming from 3 generations of beekeepers, we create unique recipes from the bees' treasures: honey, royal jelly, propolis and flower pollen for moments of healthy pleasure.

Discover our large selection of the best honeys, guaranteed pure by laboratory analysis, with more than 30 delicious varieties, beneficial to health and creative: acacia, orange blossom, heath, almond blossom honeys and other rare nectars such as Jura pine honey without forgetting our exclusive creations of premium Honeys. Famille Mary, partner to 70 French beekeepers and major actor in the honey industry.

**Famille Mary is launching a support action and donating 1% from its honey sales to the Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française.**



# THE BEES' SPONSORS



## **Beekeeper since 1982, Nicolas Geant created Beeopic for the bees..**

The idea was to share his passion for beekeeping with experienced amateurs but also novices by providing them with bees, materials and classes in beekeeping.

The slogan could be "Set up your hives in spring, watch the bees work and harvest your first honey in summer". Beeopic also addresses those for whom beekeeping is a profes-

sion by offering, for sale, queen bees, swarms and materials.

To maintain a high genetic level of the bees, Beeopic has developed, in partnership with the CNRS, what will permit it to select and multiply the French black queen bee (genetic validation).

Beeopic also produces swarms and queens by selecting Buckfast bees.

**Finally, Beeopic has developed the field of urban beekeeping by offering hives, for rent, to companies in Paris.**

+ [www.beeopic.com](http://www.beeopic.com)



## **Apiculture Route d'Or is a company in the west of France specializing in the making of hives and the processing of bees' wax.**

"Our first hives were made in 1947 and for 3 generations now we have pursued and improved this activity to be today the leading hive maker in France and the first manufacturer labeled ORIGINE FRANCE GARANTIE, which means a majority of local raw materials and employees, and we are proud to promote this know-how and make it live on.

**Socially committed for 25 years to helping the handicapped and the premier manufacturer labeled ORIGINE FRANCE GARANTIE, our operations in the transformation of bees' wax have also been certified organic by ECOCERT.**

+ [www.routedor.fr](http://www.routedor.fr)



## **Created in 1945, the Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française today represents more than 20,000 professional and amateur beekeepers who maintain 400,000 hives in continental France and the overseas territories.**

The UNAF is committed to saving the bees, defending French apiculture and more generally protecting biodiversity. Since 20 years ago, beekeepers are being confronted with seriously high death rates amongst the bees, notably in areas of intense farming where the massive use of pesticides has become a catastrophe for the surrounding flora and fauna.

**The UNAF demands the total prohibition of neonicotinoid pesticides and is continuing its actions to raise awareness about the major stakes and challenges for the future of beekeeping and our planet.**

+ [www.unaf-apiculture.info](http://www.unaf-apiculture.info)





## **BRAZIL - Pará State - Belem**

In the nest of this *Tetragonisca angustula* bee, the cells destined for the brood (the place where the bees lay eggs and raise the larvae) are egg-shaped. This bee's size does not exceed four millimetres. In the world's equatorial zones of America, Africa, India and Australia, there are nearly 400 species of stingless bees of the *Melipona* and *Trigona* families that gather nectar and pollen. Their size varies from three to fifteen millimetres. Some *Melipone* bees have several queens within the same colony.



**The Banque Postale chose the crowdfunding project for the exhibition "The Honey Roads" as its Coup de coeur.**

The Banque Postale has partnered with KissKissBankBank to promote the realization of creative and innovative projects. Each month, the Banque Postale supports a project on KissKissBankBank for up to 50% of its fundraising goals.

**Particular thanks also goes to the 87 donators, citizens and lovers of bees and nature who supported me and participated in the success of the collective financing of the exhibition "The Honey Roads".**

**+** [www.kisskissbankbank.com/aidons-les-abeilles-aidez-les-abeilles](http://www.kisskissbankbank.com/aidons-les-abeilles-aidez-les-abeilles)

**HOZHONI**  
ÉDITIONS

**Created in January 2014 by Bernard and Nûriël Chevilliat,**

the Éditions HOZHONI aims to participate in the dialogue on the evolution of the world by making a spiritual, philosophical and ecological contribution and through a reminder in images of the importance of the beauty and the consideration of other civilizations, across history and the world.

**Also publishers of the quarterly magazine *Ultreïa*, they are inaugurating with Éric Tournéret's work a collection of exceptional "coffee table" books.**

**+** [www.editions-hozhoni.com](http://www.editions-hozhoni.com)

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LIT UP FROM NIGHTFALL TO DAWN - CAPTIONS IN FRENCH, ENGLISH AND GERMAN

# THE HONEY ROADS

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 - JANUARY 19, 2016**

Fences of the Luxembourg Gardens

Rue de Médicis - 75006 Paris - No admission fee

Visit "The Honey Roads" on



[www.lesroutesdumiel.com](http://www.lesroutesdumiel.com)

