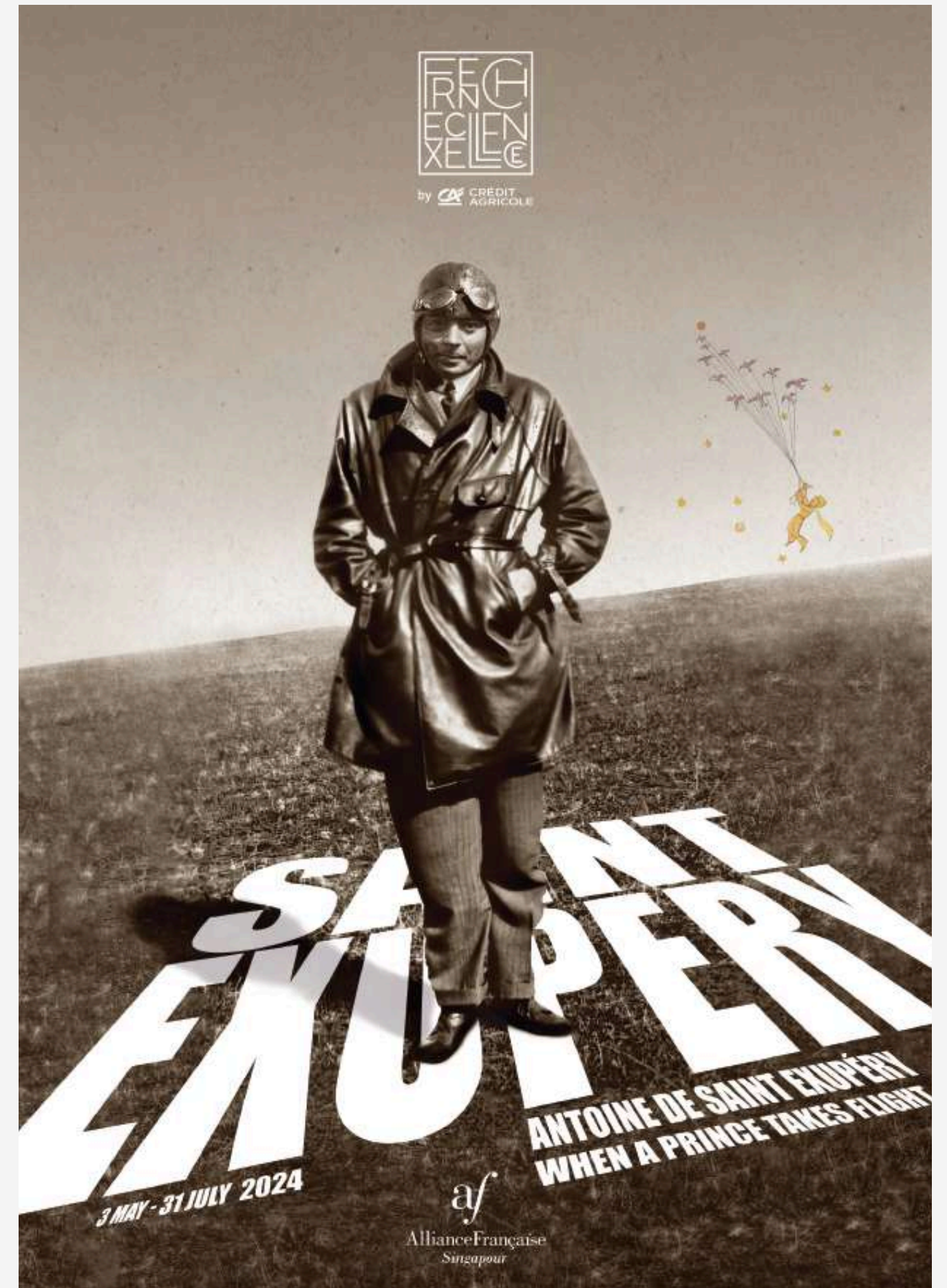


WHEN A PRINCE TAKES FLIGHT

Exhibition presented by Alliance française de Singapour from May 3rd 2024 to July 31st 2024.



OVERVIEW





THE EXHIBITION'S RED THREAD : THE PAPER PLANE

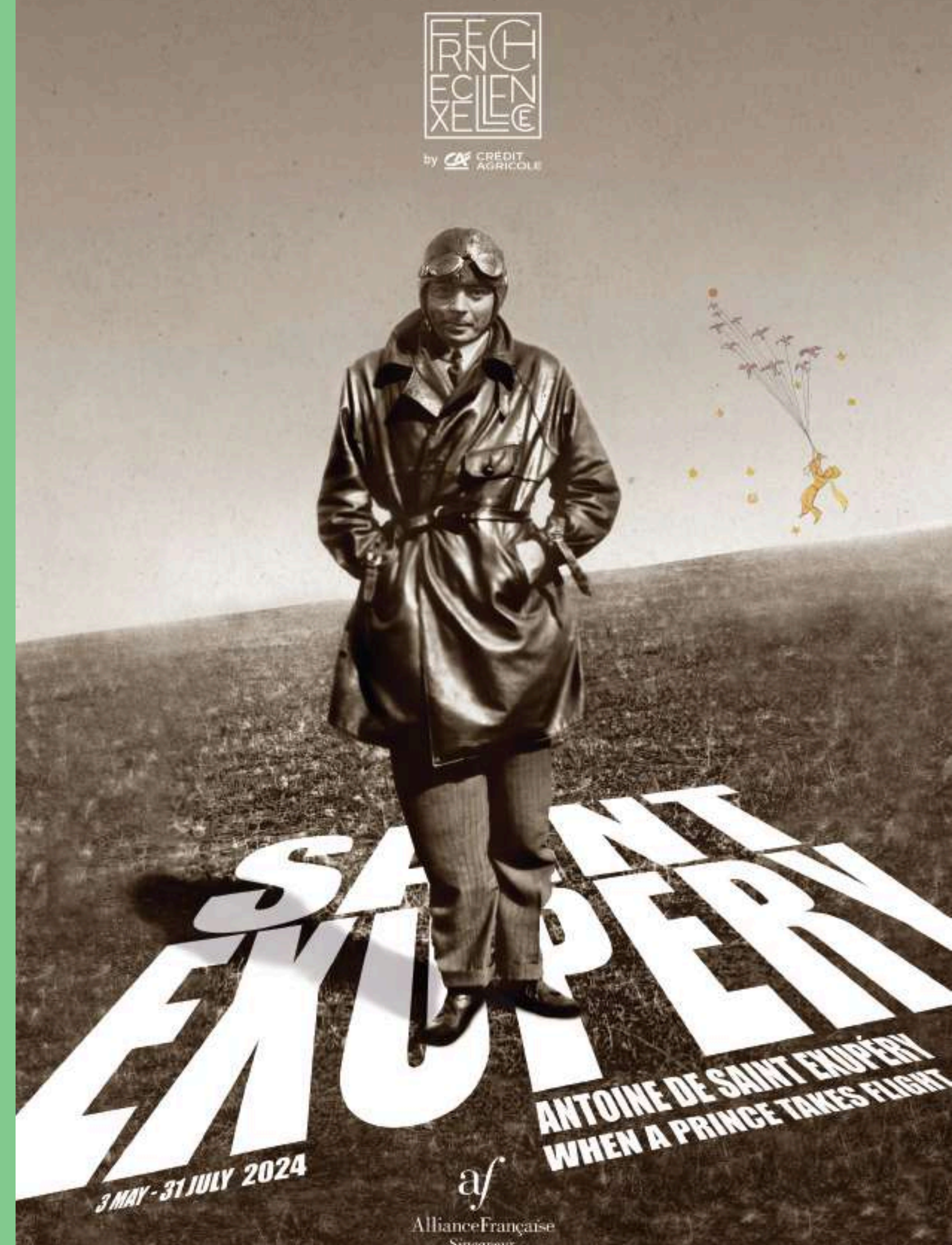
We decided to weave a red thread for the design of this exhibition: paper planes.

Multiple reasons behind this choice :

1. **The plane:** using a paper plane is a direct reference to Saint Exupéry's career. He was a pioneer aviator, adventurer and hero when dedicating his life to France as a war pilot.
2. **The paper:** made of paper (in this exhibition we printed most of the paper plane on sheets with Saint Exupéry's handwriting, namely the first page of the 2nd letter to his mother from Casablanca, 1921.) This material was Antoine de Saint Exupéry's favorite tool for his drawings and writings, in addition to reminding the mail he conveyed.
3. **The child:** paperplanes are a nod to the childlike spirit of the author.
4. **Personal anecdotes** of Antoine de Saint Exupéry: while he was living in New York, Saint Exupéry loved to craft his own paperplanes, taught his friends, and threw them out of the skyscrapers' s windows. One day, he even created enough "autogires", little paper flowers, to pour them out of the basket he had carried to the top of the Empire State Building.

ENTRANCE

When a Prince Takes Flight





Antoine de Saint Exupéry

When a Prince takes Flight

Coming a world-famous author for The Little Prince that has been translated into nearly 500 languages, Saint Exupéry, his patriotic commitment and his work remain yet to be discovered by many readers.

When A Prince Takes Flight, is precisely an account of his wander on his path on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his disappearance.

On May 22, 1940, he was captured by the Germans in Arras and taken to the prison of Fresco. Saint Exupéry recalls in *Pilote de guerre* (Flight to Arras) the life in the woodwork in his childhood home in Brice-de-Rémens and recaptures the meaning that he gives to words... Worlds of a child, of an aviator, of a committed man: these are the different facets of Saint Exupéry that the objects and documents presented here give to life.

At the beginning of the Second World War, Saint Exupéry joined an air reconnaissance group (G2), he was awarded the Croix de Guerre with distinction for his dangerous mission over Arras. Demobilized, he went to New York to try to convince the American government to enter the war. He spent 27 months in exile, during which time he wrote *Flight to Arras* (1941), based on his experiences in the desert following a plane crash. These experiences, along with his time in the Aéropostale, form the material of his first novel, *Le Petit Prince*, first published in New York in 1943.

That same year, Saint Exupéry returned to North Africa to fight with his unit in Corsica on his last mission, from which he would never return.

Antoine de Saint Exupéry then travelled to South America to oversee the establishment of "Aéropostale Argentin", he opened routes to Patagonia and played a major role in the development of trans-Andean airmail and flight lines.

Returning to Paris in 1931, he published *Pilote de Guerre*, a journalist, reporter in the USSR and Spain during the Civil War, miraculously saved after several days walking in the desert within the Aéropostale, from the material of his first novel, *Le Petit Prince*, first published in New York in 1943.

That same year, Saint Exupéry returned to North Africa to fight with his unit in Corsica on his last mission, from which he would never return.

Presented by



Supported by



In partnership with



Saint Exupéry chronology

1900

June 29
Burn in Lyon, place Bellecour

1912

July
First flight at the Ambérieu airfield on a Berthoud-Wroblewski, flown by Gabriel Wroblewski himself



1917

July
Passes his baccalauréat

September
Enters Saint-Louis high school to prepare the Naval Academy entrance exam

1917 - 1921

Parisian years

After his fail to enter Naval Academy, attempts the Beaux-Arts (Fine Arts Academy)

Attends his cousin Yvonne de Lestrang's salon

1922

Training as reserve officer cadet (Istres, Avord and Versailles-Villacoublay)

November
Assigned to the 33rd Bourget aviation regiment

Engagement with Louise de Vilmorin, broken by the end of 1923-start of 1924

1923

April 9
Begins his military service in Strasbourg as ground crew in the 2nd Air Fighter regiment

Starts his civil pilot's license

July 9
First solo flight

August 2
Assigned to Morocco

December 23
Passes his military pilot's license

1924 - 1926

Inspector at the Bozon tile factory

1926

April
First published work: "L'Aviateur" in Le Navir d'Argent

1927 - 1928

October 16
Airfield manager at Cap Juby, between the desert and the ocean, at the southernmost tip of Spanish Morocco

1929

April
Publishes his first novel, *Courrier Sud*, with Gallimard

1929 - 1931

February
Back to France

April 22
Wedding with Consuelo Suncin de Sandoval in Nice

1931

December 30
Pate-Salgon Bald - leaving Le Bourget on December 29th with his mechanic André Prévot, Saint Exupéry crashes in the Lybian desert at night.

After walking for three days in the desert, Saint Exupéry and Prévot, on the verge of death, were rescued by a Bedouin caravan on January the 2nd.

1933

February 15
Departure from New York for a raid to the Tierra del Fuego. Crashes while taking off at the Guatemala airport

1938

January
Settles in New York. Awarded with the National Book Award 1939 for *Terra des hommes* during a 1 500-cover banquet

July - October
Stay in Hollywood

Adaptation project for *Terra des hommes* with Jean Renoir

1941

February
Publication of *Terra des hommes*

September 7
Enlisted in Toulouse Francas's base after the war declaration to Germany

1940

March 27
Assigned since november of the previous year to the aerial reconnaissance group 1/33 and carries out his first war mission

May 23
Mission in Arras

December 31
Arrival in New York

1942

February
Publication of *Pilote de guerre*

Summer
Settling in Bevin House, Long Island, to write *Le Petit Prince*

November 29
"An Open Letter to Frenchmen Everywhere" in the wake of the American landings in North Africa on November the 8th

1943

April 2
Departure for North Africa to reorganize a combat unit

April 6
Publication of *The Little Prince* in New York with Reynal & Hitchcock publishers

June
Publication of *Lettre à un otage* in New York with Brentano's

July 21
First aerial reconnaissance mission for the 1/33, on a Lockheed P-38 Lightning

August 1
Suspended from flying following a crash

1944

July 31
Disappearance back from a reconnaissance mission in the Grenoble-Anney region

November 3
Mentioned in the Army Order of the Air Force and awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm by the General de Gaulle

1948

March
Posthumous publication of *Citadelle*

Officially recognized as "having Died for France"

1950

March
Posthumous mentions at the Army Order of the Air Force and awarded the Croix de Guerre 1939-1945 with Palm

1965

September
Inscription in the Pantheon pays tribute to Saint Exupéry

1982

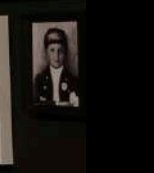
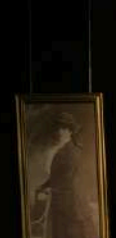
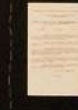
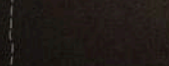
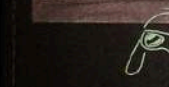
September
Publication of *Ecrits de guerre*

1998

September
Discovery by a fisherman of Saint Exupéry's chain bracelet in the Mediterranean Sea

2000

May
Declaration of the discovery of Saint Exupéry's plane, off the Riou Island, close to Marseille



1

PART ONE

THE EXPLORER



Display details

The Adventurer

Fascinated by planes from his earliest childhood, Antoine flew for the first time in 1912, having previously attempted to take flight from a hand-built biplane of his own invention. He learned to fly in 1913 during his military service and became a professional pilot in 1920, as he was hired by Didier Daurat to work for Lignes Latécoère, which had become the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale the following year, the world's first transcontinental aerial line for transporting mail, and then passengers.

Devoted to his work, and thanks to exceptional bravery and steadfastness, he became one of the pioneers of this new field of application. When flying was still a dangerous feat, he fulfilled risky missions on various continents, and introduced planes as a literary device, describing the instrument which not only "gave a new purpose to old shoes", but subjected the pilot with "even sterner severity to great natural hazards" and awakened him to practical reality.

In charge of escorting the mails from Toulouse to Dakar, and flying over the desert, avoiding its pitfalls, Saint-Esprit was appointed head of Aeropostale at Cape Juby in October 1927, between Africa and ocean, where his exploits and his charisma became legendary. Later, as Operation Manager for Aeropostale Argentina, he flew over Patagonia and the Andes, overcoming particularly perilous conditions. In the tropics, he flew his personal plane in Europe and across the Mediterranean Sea, travelled to Indochina, prospected Africa for Air France and attempted two raids from Paris to Saigon, and from New-York to Tierra del Fuego at the tip of the South American continent.

Miraculously surviving several accidents, and remaining defiant in the face of dangers, Antoine de Saint-Esprit dutifully stuck to his own conviction that a man's nobility was best demonstrated by the resilience of his own path, heedless of death. He proved this even more strongly by existing, despite his age, at a war's end.

This exhibition invites you to rediscover the skills of French aviation's pioneers and to be inspired by the spirit of one of its most brilliant icons, Antoine de Saint-Esprit, who keeps inspiring explorers from all over the world through his writings, as much as through the memory of his exploits.

The Adventurer

World War II

World War II

OVERALL CONTENT : THE ADVENTURER

- MICHELIN MAP + PRINTED MAP ON THE WALL WITH IMPORTANT PLACES OF SAINT EXUPÉRY'S LIFE.



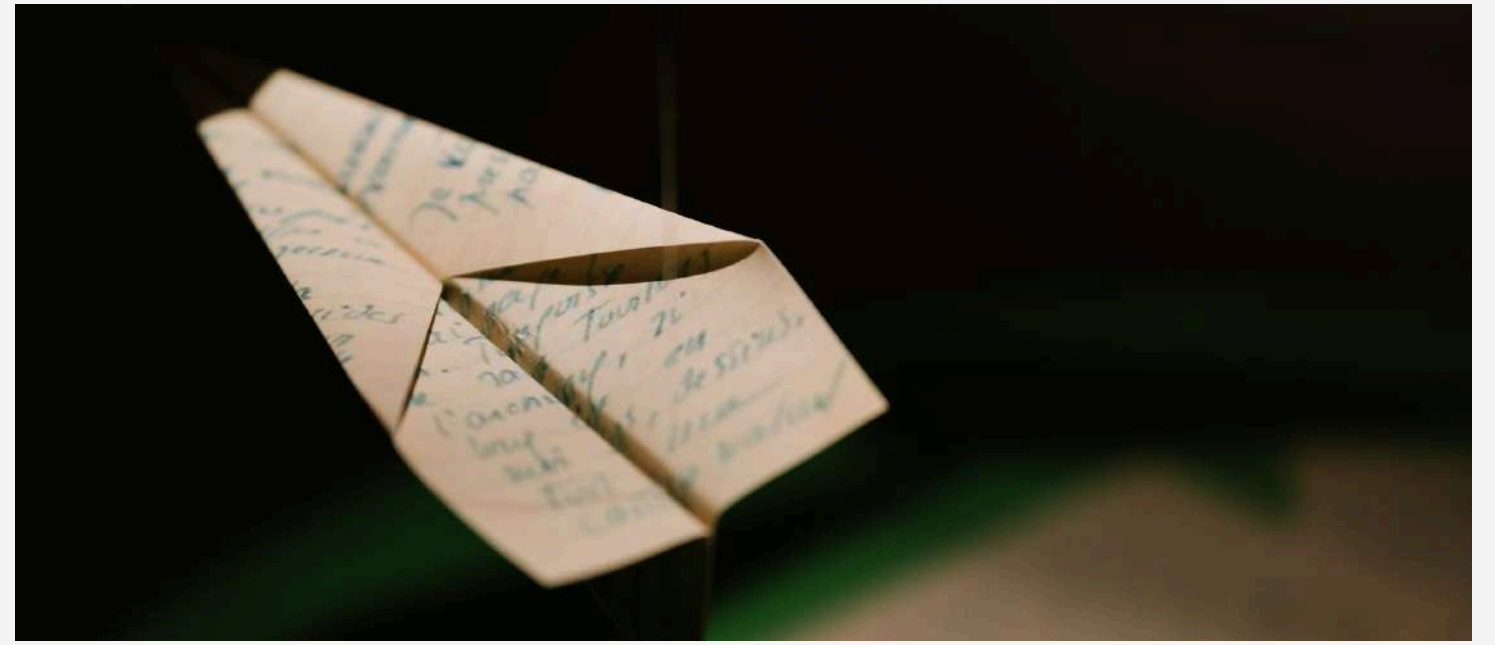
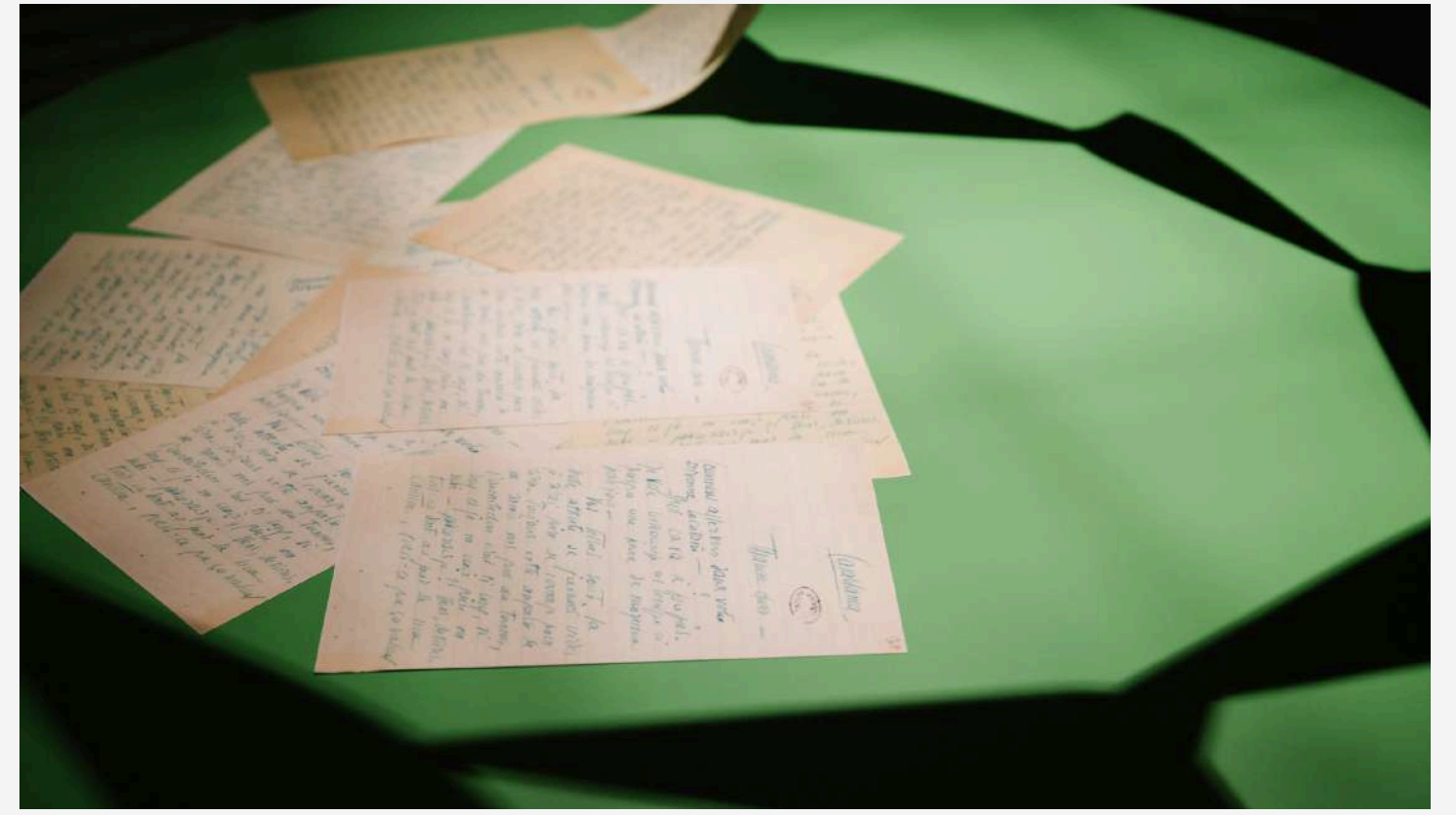
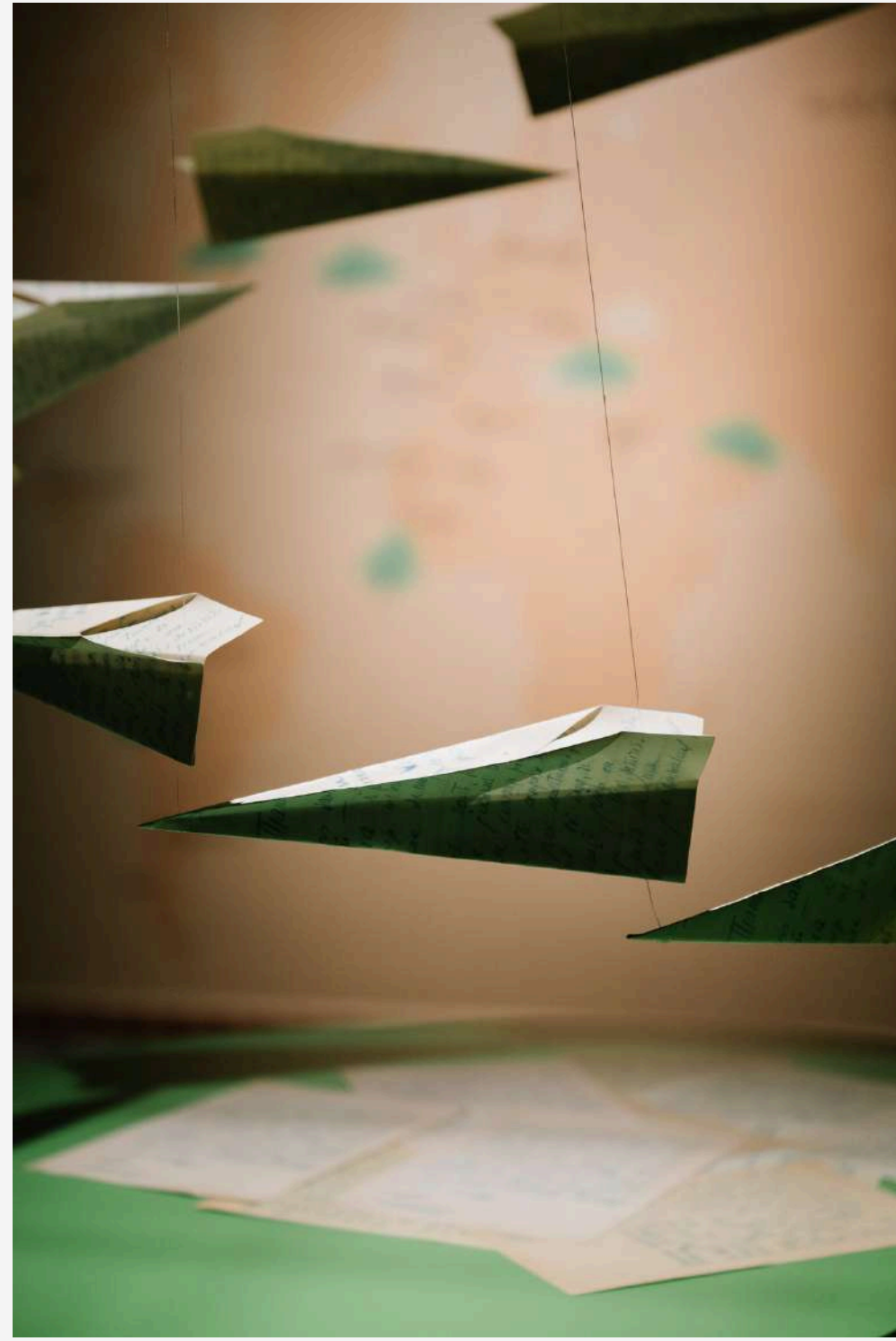
- 5 LOCKED WINDOW DISPLAY CASES WITH ARTEFACTS.



- 1 CENTRAL ART PIECE WITH PAPERPLANES DECORATION HELD BY TRANSPARENT THREADS.



CENTRAL PIECE



2

PART TWO

THE WRITER



01 Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944) *The Little Prince*

02 Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944) *Le Petit Prince*





The Writer

As an author of many stories that keep on fascinating because of their emotional power, Antoine de Saint Exupéry bequeathed a body of work that, thanks to its diversity of themes and depth in the intention, moves readers of all ages and cultures. Southern Mail Night Flight, Wind, Sand and Stars or The Wisdom of the Sands – that he left unachieved – as much as The Little Prince, a universal and timeless philosophical tale, each of his books, in their own way, seek the meaning of existence and bring forward the piloting experience of the author, in order to boast bravery, loyalty and sacrifice in the name of man's dignity. Dream and reality combine and encourage us to go beyond our physical condition "the bark", and reach the "essential" that can only be seen "through the heart".

A passion for illustration also bloomed early in his life, when he began to adorn his letters, manuscripts, or any other scrap of paper with a multitude of characters, sketches, and caricatures. In the 1930s, a recurring figure began to emerge, sometimes with variation – bald, or winged. On the advice of his publishers, he decided in 1942 to write a story and illustrate it himself. These figures one might describe as childish must – on the other hand – make us understand that they are only "signs", appearances that hides "the invisible". Since then, this Little Prince has brought everywhere in the world – and in every language – the message of an author who knew better than any other how to awaken "the dormant child in us" and whose sharp gaze has helped us uncover the universe of "grown-ups" in its true light.



01 Antoine de Saint Exupéry
1898-1944
The Little Prince

02 Antoine de Saint Exupéry
1898-1944
Le Petit Prince



OVERALL CONTENT : THE WRITER

- 4 LOCKED WINDOW DISPLAY CASES WITH ARTEFACTS.



- A SMALL LIBRARY WITH COLLECTION OF LOCAL TRANSLATIONS OF *THE LITTLE PRINCE*.



- A TV WITH LOOP OF ARCHIVES VIDEOS.

On a TV Screen, Extracts from Saint Exupéry :

- singing : "V'là l'bon vent" (loop 1)
 - reading the Preface of *Terre des Hommes*, 1938 (*Wind, Sand and Stars*) (loop 1)
 - singing "Passant sur Paris" (loop 1)
 - singing "La chanson du galérien" (loop 2)
 - Jean Mermoz' eulogy, 1937 (loop 2)
 - singing "Aux marches du palais" (loop 2)
-

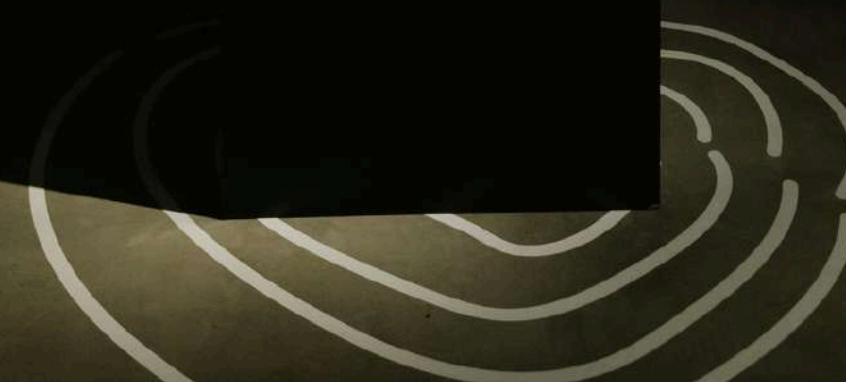
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PART THREE

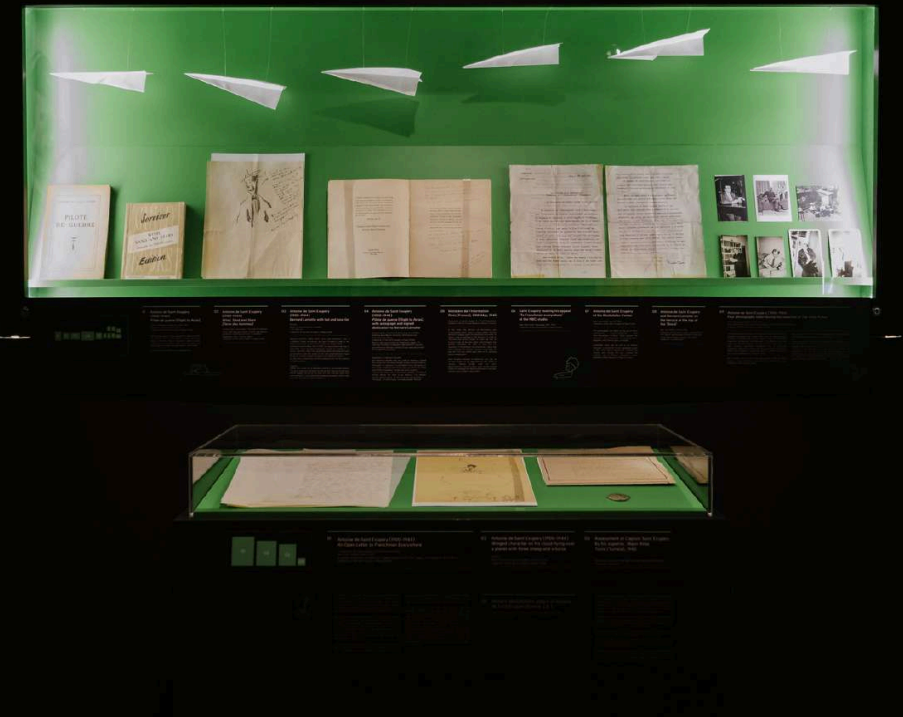
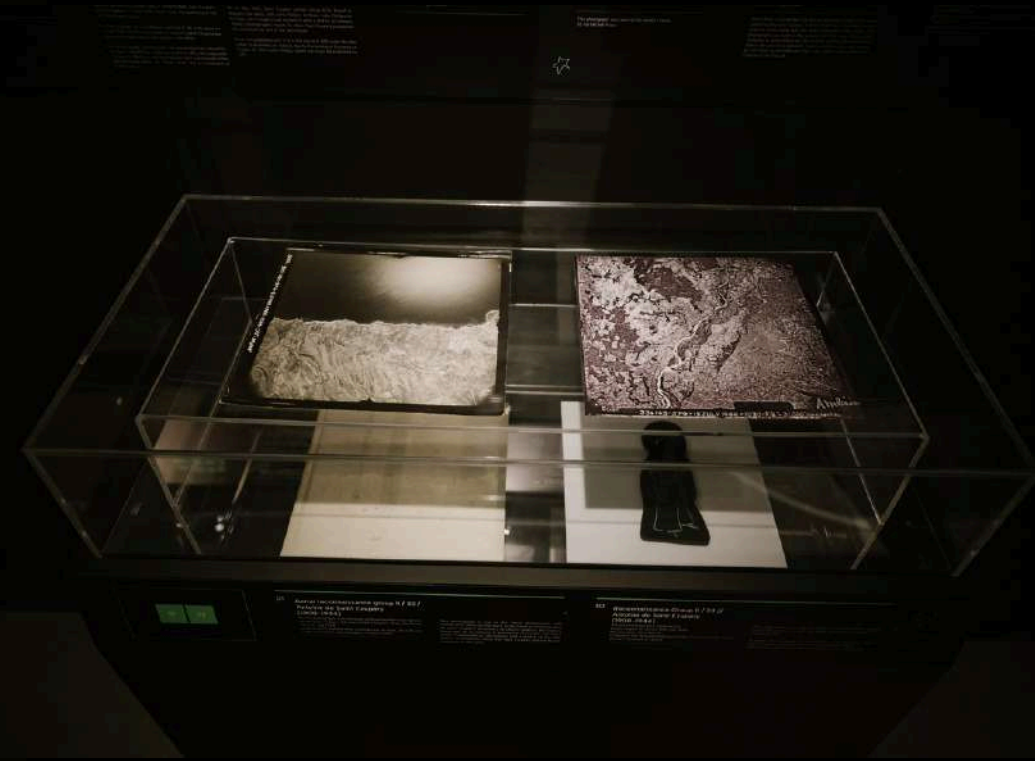
World War II Hero



Medal of Honor
Presented to
[Name]
for his actions on
[Date] at [Location].

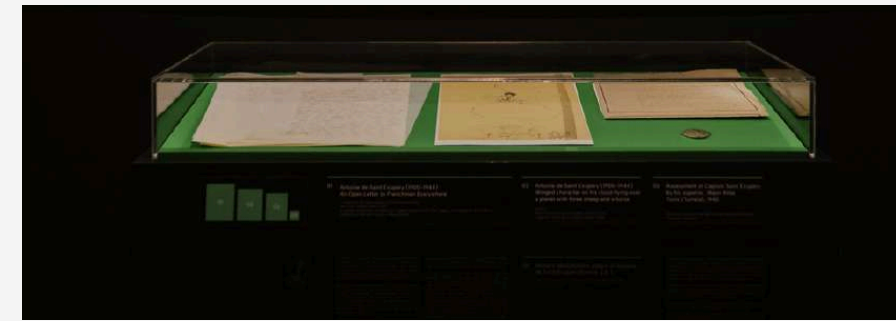
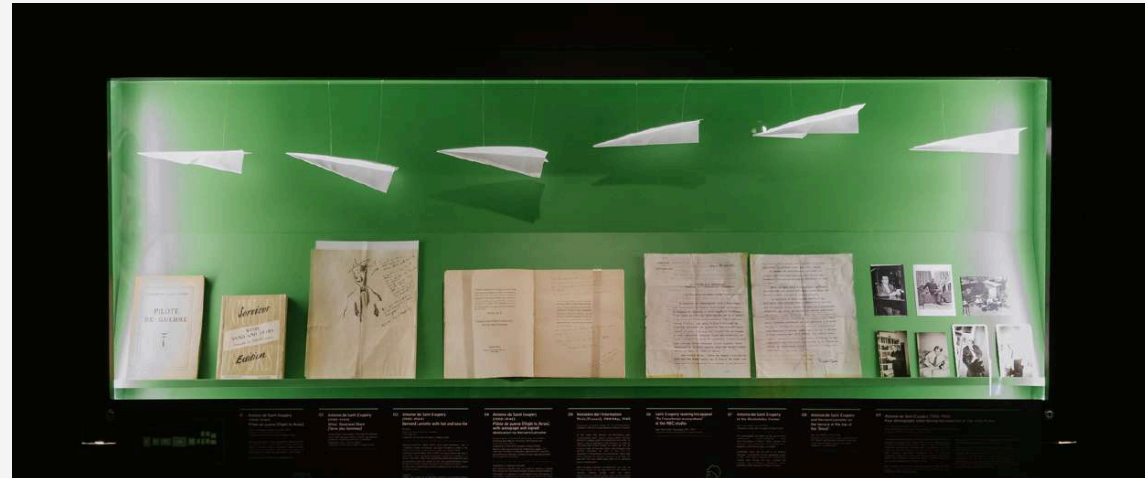


Display details



OVERALL CONTENT : THE WWII HERO

- 7 LOCKED WINDOW DISPLAY CASES WITH ARTEFACTS.



- A WALL DEDICATED TO THE SCREENING OF TWO VIDEOS + ONE LARGE PICTURE OF ANTOINE DE SAINT EXUPÉRY @JOHN PHILIPPS.



- A VR STATION.

VIDEOS LABELS

Screened on a wall, Extracts from Saint Exupéry :

2 VIDEOS on a loop :

- Luc Vanrell
- Canada

VR STATION





OVERALL CONTENT

- 1 oculus quest 2
- 1 instruction page on the VR experience
- 1 VR experience :

--> WARPLANES WWI FIGHTER JET

A captivating VR game to play a pilot during the Great War, boarding ancient aircrafts.
We offered our audience the possibility to play a quick session, in which they could fly and fight.

If you wish to offer this opportunity to your audience, please contact Lukasz at lukaszmalikpl@gmail.com for that Home Net Games decided to make their game available for free for our exhibition.

We set a minimum age of 10 to use the headset.

