

**GABRIEL D. DOUCET DONIDA**



**Gabriel D. Doucet Donida, *THE CONFSSIONAL | INFINITE HABITAT* (2025), mixed-media installation, 240(L) x 120(W) x 240(H) cm: plywood, ACP mirror, foam, Acadian vintage chair, wine bottle and glass; HD video performance, color, sound, 4'33"**

Gabriel D. Doucet Donida's *The Confessional | Infinite Habitat* transforms one of the oldest architectures of exposure - the confessional booth - into a site of psychic endurance and contemporary reflection. Combining the religious structure of the confessional with the sterile geometry of a padded solitary cell, the installation confronts the entangled histories of penitence, punishment, and performance. Here, intimacy and incarceration share a single frame: the same

architecture that once promised absolution now stages our culture's relentless need to reveal, record, and repent in public.

In a world where the private has collapsed into the performative, Doucet Donida reclaims confession as a radical act of resistance. *The Confessional | Infinite Habitat* invites participants to perform in a padded cell within a mirrored box - reflecting the world around it, multiplying the spectators outside, gazing in. What begins as a gesture of seclusion, becomes a negotiation between scrutiny and solitude - staging the paradox between exposure and concealment within a world saturated by surveillance, confession, and spectacle. Both inward and outward facing, the installation collects anonymous traces, whispered admissions, and fragmentary performances, creating a video archive of interiority in an age obsessed with visibility.

Psychologically and politically, the work addresses the paradox of exposure at the heart of our over-mediated age - the compulsion to reveal, record, and consume the self and others. Within this mirrored architecture, confession becomes both a sanctuary and a stage: a place where the self is dismantled and reassembled, where private reflection becomes a quiet defiance against the external noise of control and consumption. Exploring how isolation, repetition, and introspection can become acts of resistance, *The Confessional*, reclaims solitude and vulnerability as radical gestures in a culture driven by overexposure and performative self-display. In the padded cell of his *Confessional*, Doucet Donida exposes the thin line between therapy and surveillance, intimacy and spectacle, madness and clarity.

Premiering in *Art from Elsewhere: DEEP THROAT*, *The Confessional | Infinite Habitat* exposes the politics of confession as a form of self-regulation that has migrated from the sacred to the digital sphere—from the church to the algorithmic panopticon. If, in the past, confession was an exchange between sinner and priest, today it unfolds endlessly across screens and platforms, where the promise of redemption has been replaced by the currency of attention. Doucet Donida's mirrored enclosure thus becomes both sanctuary and trap—a space where silence resists the spectacle of disclosure, and where vulnerability regains its dignity as a form of truth-telling beyond performance.

Unfolding in three phases - from the privacy of the artist's studio, to the public realm of Valletta Contemporary, to a durational endurance performance at *Ground 99*, a satellite event of the Malta Biennale 2026 - *The Confessional | Infinite Habitat* functions as a living experiment in exposure and withdrawal. In the charged context of Malta—a site layered with histories of faith, surveillance, and secrecy—the work resonates as both confession and critique, proposing a new “infinite habitat” for reflection in an age that has forgotten how to be alone.

*“The Confessional, an inhabitable nomadic installation piece (both inside and out), aims to bring together anonymous performative actions, prayers and fragmented video recordings, while promising solitary confinement, leading to a wild fertile psychic sanity. Aware of the curative powers of endless self-reflections combined with body isolation, the work attempts to permeate neurotic compulsion of all of our individual beings, from ordinary to extraordinary moments and thoughts (beyond the normative self-representation within a collective body)... revealing a potential for freedom and needed disruption, crucial for growth at*

*all levels of our contemporary social-political realities. In psychological terms, exposing the virtues of a certain kind of madness. This can be a “life-saving” method for deep emotional restoration while the body gives form to overwhelming but necessary internal anxieties. This can enable us to develop a form of resistance, emerging out from relentless electromagnetic radiations and the ever-so-present violence of our global economics of guided desires, breaking down each of our own frameworks of thought.”*

- Gabriel D. Doucet Donida

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**GABRIEL D. DOUCET DONIDA (born 1972, Canadian-Brazilian. Lives and works in Malta and Munich, Germany.)**

Gabriel D. Doucet Donida is a multidisciplinary creative, architect, and business executive whose career bridges the worlds of art, architecture, and luxury travel. Having spent his formative years in Rome, where he attended the Lycée Châteaubriand, Doucet Donida developed an early sensitivity to the dialogue between history, space, and cultural identity that continues to inform his work today. He went on to study Architecture (B.Arch) at Carleton University, before earning an MFA in Multimedia/Interdisciplinary Studies from NSCAD University (1998–2000) and a Master’s in Arts from New York University (2000–2001).

Doucet Donida’s artistic practice explores the thresholds between architecture and the body, space and endurance, object and experience. Deeply influenced by the legacy of performance and body art, his work investigates endurance performance as a spatial and temporal condition—where duration, repetition, and physical presence become forms of sculptural and conceptual inquiry. His installations and performances often draw on the language of architectural systems and ritual gesture, situating the body within structures of constraint, persistence, and transformation. Through these investigations, Doucet Donida examines the ways in which the built environment, and by extension the social world, shape and test the limits of human experience.

Parallel to his artistic practice, Gabriel D. Doucet Donida is Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Marketing Director of Atelier Voyage (Munich), a boutique travel consultancy founded in 2007 that curates bespoke journeys for an international clientele. At Atelier Voyage, he brings his multidisciplinary background to the design of immersive travel experiences that transcend conventional tourism—merging art, architecture, and cultural discovery into meaningful encounters with place. Fluent in six languages and grounded in a deep understanding of visual culture, Doucet Donida has positioned Atelier Voyage as a global preferred-partner network of luxury hotels, resorts, yachts, and lifestyle brands, distinguished by its blend of aesthetic sophistication and intellectual depth.

In both his artistic and professional practice, Gabriel D. Doucet Donida continues to explore how architecture, endurance, and travel intersect as forms of performance - each a means of negotiating time, body, and environment in pursuit of a more profound understanding of human experience.