



PARIS HERITAGE SEEN FROM A NEW ANGLE

41 ART IN THE CITY

THE EAST WALK — ROUTE ALONG THE T3B TRAMLINE



The Paris heritage strolls

FROM THE PORTE DE VINCENNES (20TH) TO THE PORTE D'AUBERVILLIERS (18TH)

>>> The City of Paris Department of Cultural Affairs handles upkeep of the monuments and statues of the municipal and State heritage. Most of them date from the beginning of the Third Republic, an active period for artistic commissions. Although the 20th century was more cautious in this respect for a long time, the City of Paris has since revived the tradition of commissioning public art. In 2003, Paris set up the Art in the City Committee, with elected officials, experts and departments to advise on the projects that are planned, while the City has commissioned permanent or temporary works which can be discovered along three walks: North, South and East.

>>> The east walk follows the route of the T3 tramway along Boulevard des Maréchaux through the 20th, 19th and 18th arrondissements, discovering a part of the artistic commission that accompanied the extension of the line in 2012. The works proposed by Christian Bernard, Artistic Director, take on various different forms relating to questions, situations and sites that have been proposed to the artists. Not afraid to combine business with pleasure, humour and aesthetics, the poetic and the functional, the familiar and the unexpected, the artists have applied their unique imaginations to the work of the engineers, architects, landscapers and designers, so that the art of their time can attract tram passengers and residents living nearby, as well as passers-by and people strolling along the Boulevards and Portes.

>>> (12th and 20th) >>> Porte de Vincennes

1 Langlands & Bell Call & Response, 2012

Cours de Vincennes leads to Place de la Nation, guarded by the columns of Claude-Nicolas Ledoux. Their powerful bases are translucent, shimmering and bright cubic works, signalling and lining the approaches to the metro station at Porte de Vincennes. Artists Langlands and Bell pay homage to the great architect of the 18th century, from whom they drew their inspiration. Their proposal also points to the crossing underneath Cours de Vincennes that passes from one tram station to the other. By night, the light inside the cubes changes colour in sequence with the arrivals and departures of the trams. The artists have chosen to match the colour of the work to that of the metallic bridge of the Petite Ceinture. Midway between architecture and design, the two pieces are kinetic sculptures inspired by the art of the Age of Enlightenment, with their abstract and modern shapes. Ben Langlands (1955) and Nikki Bell (1959) live and work in London (Great-Britain).

>>> (20th) >>> Porte de Montreuil

2 Pascale Marthine Tayou Poings d'eau, 2012

The small crowds of brown silhouettes with their phosphorescent yellow hats peacefully watch over the streets of Porte de Montreuil. As you approach, water can be seen flowing from a clenched fist that suddenly emerges from the group of statues. These sculptures by Pascale Marthine Tayou are in fact fountains. The characters in the group are inspired by modern African dolls, known as "settlers". Elegantly styled, they mock figures of authority, such as judges, doctors and colonials, as well as their dress codes. Pascale Marthine Tayou's *Poings d'eau* show hands offering the essentials of life rather than serving to strike people. Fists are also a sign of rebellion, however. The artist, born in Cameroon in 1967, lives and works in Ghent, Belgium. The five fountains are divided up on both sides of Boulevard Davout, from rue Paganini to rue des Régilises.



>>> (20th) >>> Porte de Bagnolet

3 Mark Handforth Twisted Lampost Star, 2012

A strange pink lamp post stands on the roundabout at Porte de Bagnolet, as if King Kong had tied a star-shaped knot. At night, the five lamps bathe the square in pink light, creating a surreal atmosphere.

Mark Handforth, born in 1969 in Hong Kong, lives and works in Miami, USA and Frankfurt, Germany. He often uses street furniture in his works. Adding a dash of humour, he changes the shapes of the items to make objects that are as spectacular as they are absurd. Whilst very useful as a public street-light, the lamp is a perky, cheerful sculpture and a joy to admire at the entrance to Paris.



>>> (19th) >>> Parc de la Butte du chapeau rouge

4 Bert Theis 2551913, 2012

On 25 May 1913, one year before his assassination, Jean Jaurès delivered a major speech here against war. In memory of this event, Bert Theis has placed two benches, one on the hill and the other further below, along Boulevard d'Algérie. They are also abstract sculptures. The curved shape of the benches is taken from the symbol for peace that the artist has placed on the site map to define their shape and position. Visitors to Square de la Butte du chapeau rouge will discover the pleasures of the convenient benches, a perfect location for relaxation, day-dreaming, resting and picnics with the added luxury of a panoramic view overlooking the vast urban landscape beyond the city.

A typically simple design, made of wood painted in white, Bert Theis's public works often provide platforms dedicated to reflection, resting and sharing, giving people the chance to take a break from the hassles of daily life. Bert Theis was born in Luxembourg in 1952 and lives and works in Milan (Italy) and Luxembourg.



>>> (19th) >>> Porte de Pantin

5 Peter Kogler Les Fourmis, 2012

Peter Kogler's illuminated backdrop presents a line of ants that follow each other mechanically like the cars passing by below. Are we really so different from these countless, identical ants? All of a sudden, the ants curl up into balls and transform into globes. Within each of us can be found a unique world, our own irreplaceable singularity. This short cartoon suffices in suggesting this.

Peter Kogler was born in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1959 and lives and works in Vienna. Since the 1980s, he has become famous for his passion in particular for the form of the ant. This love of seriality and repetition is a legacy of minimalism and pop art. In installations in urban environments, while using the functional and architectural data of the locality, the artist creates discrepancies, often tinged with humour and irony thanks to the use of wall paper or hypnotic video projections.

Another work by Peter Kogler has been installed at Square Robert Bajac in the 13th arrondissement (see South walk no.36).



>>> (19th) >>> Jules Ladoumègue Stadium

6 Pascal Pinaud La Grille, 2012

The 476-metre fence bordering the Jules Ladoumègue Stadium was designed by painter Pascal Pinaud. Instead of producing a single repeatable shape, the artist created a long composition binding together many different patterns taken from the area surrounding the stadium: railings around trees, designs of metal gates or cast iron balconies, silhouettes of tree leaves, etc. The vocabulary is formal, diverse, accessible and familiar. Benches have also been integrated into the mesh of this metallic fresco. They offer unexpected comfort to stadium users and strollers at the Porte de Pantin.

Pascal Pinaud's work makes use of materials and shapes found here and there. He chooses them and assembles them in such a way as to highlight their disparities. The artist was born in 1964 in Toulouse and lives and works in Nice.



>>> (19th) >>> Porte de la Villette

7 Anita Molinero
La Station, 2012

Everything here is different from other stations. The mosaic of slabs covering the ground climbs up onto the shelters. Prints of tyres, shoes and chicken feet are dotted randomly around the walls. Half-melted car tail-lights become flowers which light up at night. The handrails are hedges formed of stainless-steel rods that seem to bend in the wind. Certain shelters even stand on their side. A sense of fantasy and irrationality reigns.

Anita Molinero was given free rein at Porte de la Villette station. In partnership with architect and town planner Alexandre Bouton (from the firm Urban Act), she approached this austere site with the offbeat humour and freedom that so characterises her work. Born in 1953 in Floirac, the artist lives and works in Paris.



>>> (18th) >>> Porte d'Aubervilliers

9 Katinka Bock
La Grande Fontaine, 2012

Here the tramline springs from the earth to join the Boulevard McDonald. Instead of a simple guardrail to protect passers-by, Katinka Bock has developed a white concrete ribbon punched with windows and doors, rather like a house unfolded, or as if the ramp of the car-park behind had been unravelled. This long sculpture melts into the architectural landscape. It accompanies strollers and offers them a recital of little visual oddities, with linen folded into edges and a tree or a rock inserted into the wall. When it rains it becomes a fountain.

Katinka Bock's works combine a variety of materials in assemblies that play on their properties and reconfigure space. The artist was born in 1976 in Frankfurt and lives and works in Paris.



>>> (19th) >>> Porte d'Aubervilliers

8 Pierre Ardouvin
Tu me fais tourner la tête, 2012

Perched on the top of twisted poles, fourteen playground attractions seem to be leaping into the air like table tennis balls flying

above a jet of water. Scattered around the walkway that leads to Aubervilliers, they suggest a mad carousel in which each of its components is escaping in a joyfully anarchic and childish frenzy.

Pierre Ardouvin was born in 1955 in Crest, and lives and works in Paris. He regularly uses this kind of libertarian humour – sometimes edgy, sometime poetic, always driven by the dream of a world without obstacles.

ALL THE STROLLS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SITE:

www.paris.fr

PARIS'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ART CONTINUES ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE T3A TRAM LINE (SEE THE SOUTH WALK, NO. 36), AS WELL AS IN THE CARRIAGES AND STATIONS ON THE T3B LINE.

Rodolphe Burger
Les Voix du monde, 2012

The voice that announces the next station is not the same one that announced the last station. The voices yesterday were different to those today. It feels as if each time there is a different voice speaking to us directly: man, woman or child, young or old, unknown or familiar, immediately-recognisable voices, Parisian accents, provincial or foreign, from Europe or elsewhere. And each station has its own short musical sequence. There are hundreds of voices recorded by Rodolphe Burger and Yves Dormoy, appearing in the carriages at random, creating an element of surprise in the colours of the world, the colours of Paris the city and a world in itself.

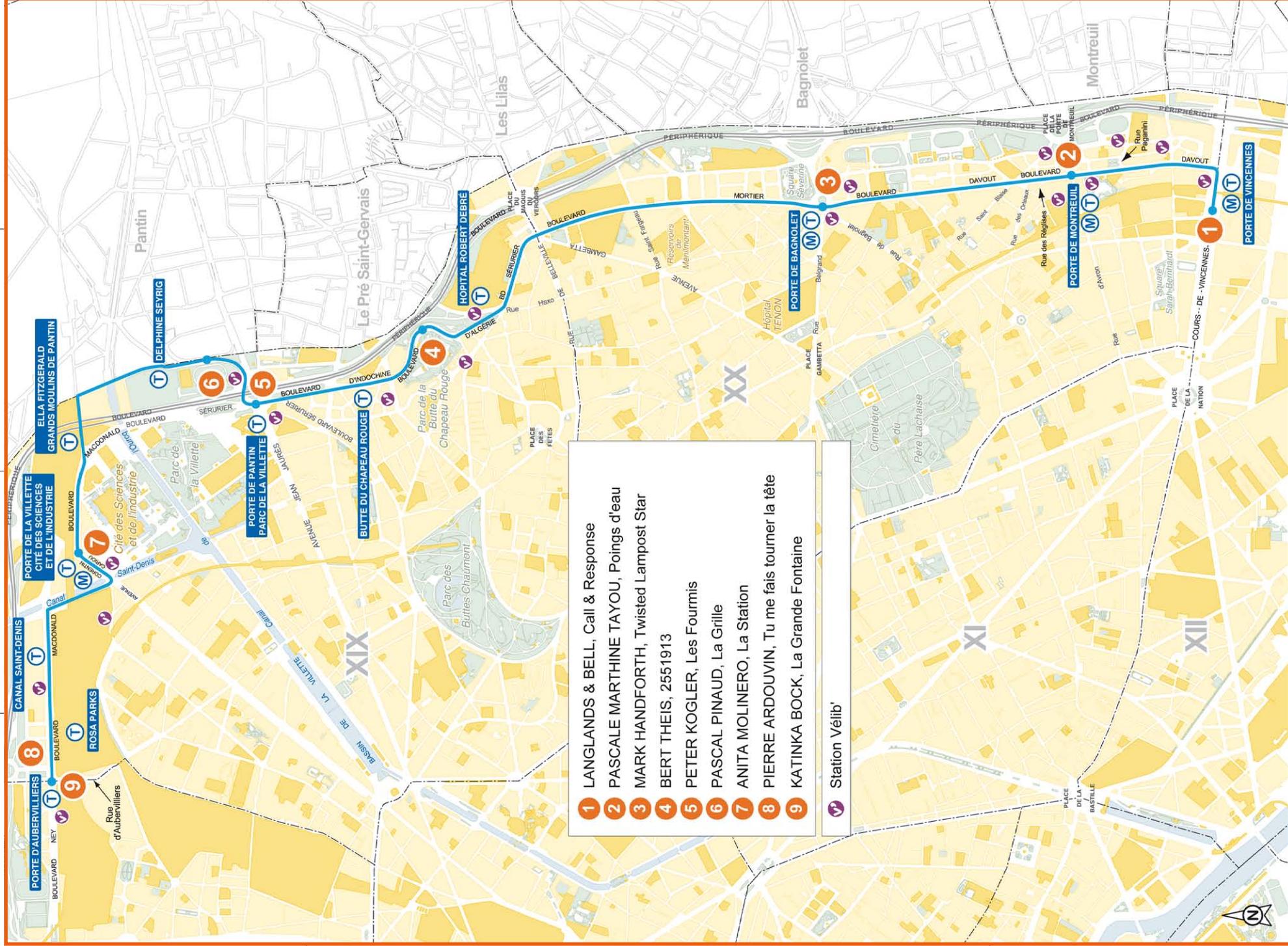
Pierre Alferi et Olivier Cadiot
Choses lues, 2012

On the glass windows of the shelters, inside the stations (except the one at Porte de la Villette), words, isolated sentences, short texts, all in a range of writings in different styles and sizes, relating to various subjects, eras and aspects appear as if floating on a transparent sheet inserted between the user, readers and the city. It seems as if these *Choses lues*, named in reference to Victor Hugo *Choses vues*, were in fact written for the city that appears to inspire them, the various feelings and sudden memories. Pierre Alferi and Olivier Cadiot saw Paris as a text and so, with the help of Graphic Designer Cédric Scandella, they composed the pages, their messages of love in a new style of poem, a poem along the Boulevards of Paris.

Also discover the **Tram walks** (Promenades du Tram), guided tours led by an expert with the added benefit of multimedia content. For more information, visit www.dedale.info and www.paris.fr

Find all the points **Vélib'** stations on www.velib.paris.fr

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* Prix d'un appel local à partir d'un poste fixe sauf tarif propre à votre opérateur



- 1 LANGLANDS & BELL, Call & Response
- 2 PASCALE MARTHINE TAYOU, Poings d'eau
- 3 MARK HANDFORTH, Twisted Lampost Star
- 4 BERT THEIS, 2551913
- 5 PETER KOGLER, Les Fourmis
- 6 PASCAL PINAUD, La Grille
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Station Vélib'

