



PARIS HERITAGE SEEN FROM A NEW ANGLE

# 36 ART IN THE CITY

THE SOUTH WALK — ROUTE ALONG THE T3A TRAME LINE



## The Paris heritage strolls

FROM PORTE DE VERSAILLES (15<sup>th</sup>) TO PORTE DE MONTEMPIRE (12<sup>th</sup>)

>>> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 South walk follows the T3 tram line along the Boulevard des Maréchaux through the 15<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> arrondissements, discovering two major commissions to accompany the return of the tram to Paris in 2006 and its extension in 2012. Under the artistic direction of Ami Barak and Christian Bernard, artists have been invited to create an urban narrative to punctuate daily commuting routes and accompany the renovation projects in neighbourhoods crossed by the tram. The ten commissioned works reflect the City's commitment to bringing art into the heart of the city and making it accessible to all.



>>> (15<sup>th</sup>) >>> Porte de Versailles

### 1 Dan Graham From Boullée to Eternity, 2006

*From Boullée to Eternity* is an extraordinary “waiting room” at Porte de Versailles, located a few metres from the tram station, and is composed of two intertwined arcs. Its reflective glass structure allows passers-by to be mirrored on the walls and become an integral part of the work. The artist is playing with opposites: inside/outside, public/private, opaque/transparent and observer/observed. The form and the choice of materials are reminiscent of the modernist glass architecture of large Western cities and the surrounding buildings, particularly the hemispheric vault of the sports centre located nearby.

Dan Graham was born in 1942 in Urbana (United States) and lives and works in New York. Since the mid-1960s, his artistic production has been characterised by the use of different cultural fields, particularly architecture and rock culture. Attentive to social systems and the way they shape behaviour in the public and private domains, his performances, videos and architectural installations are in a relationship of dependency upon the spectator-participant.



>>> (14<sup>th</sup>) >>> On the corner of Boulevard Jourdan and Avenue David Weill

### 2 Claude Lévêque Tchaikovsky, 2006

The artist has crowned a small, stone building of the 1930 within a sort of diadem composed of large panels of polished stainless steel like a creased mirror. The corrugated metal surface creates an upturned image which plays with the laws of gravity: a basin is suspended above our heads and blends with the sky. The reflection in this “aerial lake” constantly changes with the movements of trams and pedestrians and the clouds passing by. By disrupting the image of the real world in this way, Claude Lévêque is questioning appearances, both moving and elusive, and helping us to see our environment in a different way.

Claude Lévêque was born in Nevers in 1953 and lives and works in Montreuil. His work is characterised by a sensory yet mental approach in which the body is no longer the instrument or vehicle of form, but its preferred recipient. He leads the visitor into an experience of the world in which each element helps to create an atmosphere, a poetic evocation which makes the visitor an actor in the story being played out. His raw material remains the everyday environment. His works always leave a gap, a space to be filled, for the imagination. It is an elliptical narrative in which the artist offers up a free work, still to be completed.



>>> (14<sup>th</sup>) >>> 11 ter Rue d'Alésia

**3 Anne Frémy**  
**Balles et Ballons, 2005**

The construction of the Alice Milliat gymnasium was accompanied by a work by artist Anne Frémy as part of the 1% for Art programme. The project is based on the glass elements in the entrance hall and the bow windows letting light into the changing rooms, in order to highlight this gymnasium hidden behind an embankment. To match the sporting purpose of the building, she created different-sized balls stuck randomly onto the windows, as if they have "escaped from an iconography revealing the universality of this object both banal and eternally magic".

Anne Frémy was born in Paris in 1955 and still lives and works in the city. An iconographer, architect, exhibition designer, video director and lifeguard, she is unclassifiable as an artist and happy to be so, although it would not be totally unreasonable to describe her as an artist-archivist of planning and urban architecture.



>>> (13<sup>th</sup>) >>> Square Robert Bajac

**4 Peter Kogler**  
**Skate Park, 2006**

With this inverted fragment of the globe, embedded into the ground rather than erected

on it, Peter Kogler is offering an indirect image of the world which is part of an anti-monumental conception of public sculpture. Rather than being placed there *a posteriori*, the work anticipates and integrates its possible appropriation by taking the form of a sports facility. Its curved form and particular appearance make it an ideal playground for skateboarders, rollerbladers and BMX riders. *Skate Park* therefore raises the question of mobility in an urban environment.

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 for forms, in particular 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 Porte de Pantin in the 19<sup>th</sup> arrondissement (see Stroll No.41).



>>> (13<sup>th</sup>) >>> Porte d'Ivry

**5 Didier Fiuza Faustino**  
**ISQMH, 2006**

Didier Fiuza Faustino proposes a 17 metre-high contemporary totem pole consisting of different geometric modules piled on top of each other like a game of building blocks. This hybrid object oscillates between sculpture and architecture. Looking through,

we can imagine a kitchen, a bedroom, a living room, a toilet and even a ladder going to the different floors. The surface area of each room is exactly the same as the surface for the construction of the building, its gross surface area of 1m<sup>2</sup>. Didier Fiuza Faustino almost literally adopts the idea of a work to be lived in. *ISQMH* evokes both the surrounding architecture and a science fiction architecture, whose vertical momentum appears as a futuristic model of urban development.

Didier Fiuza Faustino was born in 1968 and lives and works in Paris and Lisbon. He defines himself as an alchemist, but also an architect, artist and magazine editor. He prefers to work as part of a team, collaborating with designers, mechanics, engineers and graphic artists, and working within the *Bureau des Mésarchitectures*, a firm of architects he himself founded. His resolutely multi-form approach to architecture extends from experimentation to installation and is a reflection on the human body and its movements. The habitat is envisaged as an extension of the self, both physical and mental.



>>> (13<sup>th</sup>) >>> Porte de Vitry

**6 Les Lanternes**

At Porte de Vitry, two display cases have been installed under the new bridge of the Petite Ceinture. At night, these mobile galleries become lanterns that watch over the entrance to Paris, presenting works of art, interventions or information about artistic activities. They are entrusted to institutions

in the Ile-de-France region. They are open to all and invite everyone to discover living art and the different places where they are installed.

Since their inauguration in December 2012, the Lanterns have been part of a programme for MAC/VAL (Museum of Contemporary Art in Val-de-Marne), and also for FMAC (City of Paris Municipal Fund for Contemporary Art).



>>> (13<sup>th</sup>) >>> Avenue de France

**7 Didier Marcel**  
**Les Rochers dans le ciel, 2012**

Leading to Boulevard Massena, Avenue de France forms a junction with a square planted with trees and poles topped with rocks that seem, ironically, to float like clouds in the sky. Sculptor Didier Marcel has memories of a sky bearing heavy mineral clouds, like those in a painting by Magritte, reminding him of the image invented by the surrealist artist. In turn, Didier Marcel has recreated this impossible vision in the three dimensions of this new urban landscape, combining the idea of a hallucination both artificial and real, a disturbing yet familiar situation, or simply the dream of a juggler in weightlessness.

Didier Marcel was born in Besançon in 1961 and lives and works in Dijon. He questions the relationship between nature and culture and explores those between people and their environment.



>>> (13<sup>th</sup>) >>> Esplanade Vidal-Naquet

**8 Nancy Rubins**  
**Monochrome for Paris, 2013**

Just a few steps from the Seine stands an amazing bouquet which appears to explode before our eyes. Its flowers are in fact a mixture of boats, canoes and kayaks, all made from metal, erupting in every direction like a firework. The chromatic unity of the entire work emphasises their form rather than their function, as well as erasing all traces of wear and the original colours, and therefore any story behind them. It gives the piece the abstract appearance of a metal sculpture. The grey and cold aspect of this urban signal contrasts with the energy of its multidirectional dynamics. Nancy Rubins was born in 1952 in Naples, Texas (United States) and lives and works in Topanga Canyon in California. Her work typically involves the assembly of manufactured objects that she diverts from their initial uses and enhances their visual qualities.



>>> (12<sup>th</sup>) >>> Boulevard Poniatowski and Belvédère Montempoivre

**9 Sylvie Auvray**  
**Les Complots, 2012**

Sylvie Auvray chose the rabbit as the motif for her work in the area allocated to her

between the Pont National and the Porte de Charenton, along the footbridge of the Porte de Montempoivre. Sometimes the rabbits are skipping about on metal, sometimes they appear to be conspiring against hunters, and other times the hunters come to shoot them.

Sylvie Auvray was born in 1974 in Paris where she lives and works. In her paintings and sculptures, she combines humour and fantasy with tenderness and cruelty. Cartoons, popular culture and the ambiguous world of childhood inspire her work.



>>> (12<sup>th</sup>) >>> Porte de Charenton

**10 Michel Corajoud and Yannick Salliot**  
**Jardin des diversités végétales, 2012**

At the corner of Boulevard Poniatowski and Avenue de la Porte de Charenton, a small triangular square runs along the length of the Valmy cemetery. Sticking out over the cemetery wall, geometrically trimmed trees keep watch over the graves. The square itself was planted with the traditional plane trees but landscapers Michel Corajoud and Yannick Salliot have now mixed in pine trees that appear to have migrated from the neighbouring Bois de Vincennes park. Like the palm trees at the Porte Dorée, these are unfamiliar features in the squares of Paris. With these species usually exiled from towns, the tree-lined landscape of the boulevards gains in variety and poetic suggestion.

Michel Corajoud (1937) and Yannick Salliot (1963) live and work in Paris.

ALL THE STROLLS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SITE:

[www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr)

THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ART AND THE CITY CONTINUES ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE T3B TRAM LINE (SEE THE EAST WALK, NO. 41), AS WELL AS IN THE CARRIAGES AND STATIONS ON THE T3A 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.

**Patrick Corillon**  
**Autour de Paris, 2006-2012**

Corillon's art on the glass panels in tram stations highlights the fact that the tram does not encircle the city but instead opens up crossing points. Paris and its suburbs no longer appear in a form of hierarchy (central or outside the centre), but are united in growth, the growth of a flower or a tree. They are united by the same 'history'. Through this project, the tram is presented as the soil in which this history can sprout.

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](http://www.dedale.info) and [www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr)

Find all the points **Vélib'** stations on [www.velib.paris.fr](http://www.velib.paris.fr)

**TOUTE L'INFO**  
**au 3975\* et**  
**sur PARIS.FR**  
\* Prix d'un appel local à partir d'un poste fixe sans tarif propre à votre opérateur

- 1 DAN GRAHAM, From Boullée to Eternity
  - 2 CLAUDE LEVEQUE, Tchaïkovski
  - 3 ANNE FREMY, Balles et Ballons
  - 4 PETER KOGLER, Skate Park
  - 5 DIDIER FIUZA FAUSTINO, 1SQMH
  - 6 Les Lanternes
  - 7 DIDIER MARCEL, Les Rochers dans le ciel
  - 8 NANCY RUBINS, Monochrome for Paris
  - 9 SYLVIE AUVRAY, Les Complots
  - 10 MICHEL CORAJOUD ET YANNICK SALLIOT  
Jardin des diversités végétales
-  Station Vélib'

