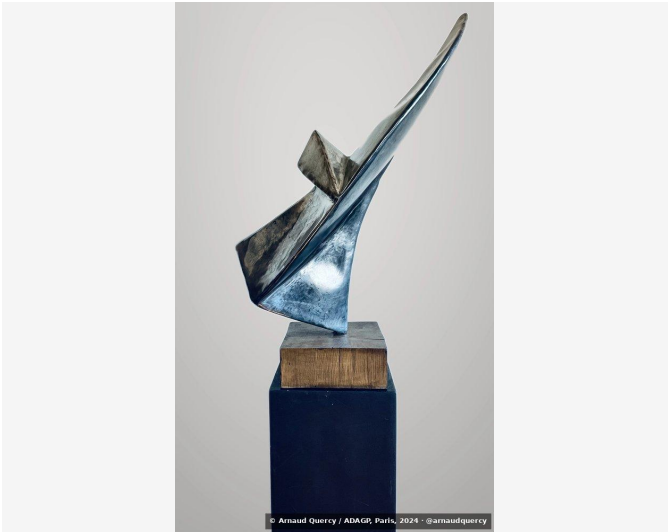


Nanopublication – Steel as Material Resonance

by Arnaud Quercy [2] · The Seagull of Montparnasse · 2024



CLAIM 3: STEEL AS MATERIAL RESONANCE

I chose steel[1] deliberately – the material of urban infrastructure itself – so that the seagull is literally forged from the substance of the city it has claimed. The bird is made of the same matter as the girders, railings, and frameworks of Montparnasse, collapsing the boundary between wild creature and adopted environment.

CONTEXT

The choice of steel is not incidental – it is the conceptual spine of this sculpture. Steel is the substance of the modern city: the I-beams of Haussmann-era renovations, the lattice of the Métro infrastructure beneath Boulevard Edgar Quinet, the railings along the cemetery, the market stalls where the gulls scavenge. By forging the bird from steel, I make the creature literally inseparable from its environment. The seagull does not merely inhabit the city; it is made of the city.

This material identity creates a deliberate ambiguity. The polished and patinated surfaces of the sculpture shift between silver-blue brightness and darker oxidized tones, giving the form a visual quality that is simultaneously organic and industrial. Seen from one angle, the curves read as feathers catching light; from another, they read as folded sheet metal. The viewer cannot fully separate the bird from the infrastructure – and that is the

point. The seagull has so thoroughly claimed this urban space that the boundary between creature and city has dissolved.

This material logic also distinguishes the piece from more traditional approaches to animal sculpture, where bronze or stone serve as neutral carriers of form. Here, the medium is not neutral. It is an argument: that the wild thing and the built environment are made of the same stuff, that the seagull belongs to Montparnasse as fundamentally as the steel structures it perches on.

REFERENCES

- [1] Quercy, A. (2024). La Mouette de Montparnasse (AQC0709). Steel on wood block, 60 × 86 × 35 cm, 12 kg. <https://arnaudquercy.art/media/2024/09/the-seagull-of-montparnasse-steel-by-arnaud-quercy-aqc0709-7vs.webp>
- [2] Quercy, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>
- [3] Quercy, A. Nature in the City – Collection statement. https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/09/the-seagull-of-montparnasse_7vy.html

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: Wings over the City
Collection: Nature in the city
Technique: Steel

EXHIBITIONS

- Salon d'art contemporain – Metamorphose, Paris (2024-12-26 → 2025-01-05, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)
- Permanent Collection 2025 – Resonance in Form (2025-01-01 → 2025-12-31, arnaudquercy.art, Paris)
- Paris Studio Visit (2025-02-18 → 2025-02-18, Artist's Studio, Paris)
- Marché d'Art Contemporain – Seine Port (2025-05-17 → 2025-05-17, MAC Seine-Port, Seine-Port)
- Nuit des Artistes, St Germain-en-Laye, France (2025-05-24 → 2025-05-24, La Nuit des Artistes, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)
- Marché de l'Art de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 17ème édition – France (2025-06-14 → 2025-06-14, Marché de l'Art, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)
- Salon d'art contemporain – Metamorphose 2025-2026, Paris (2025-12-26 → 2026-01-04, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)
- Art Quam Anima – Pre-opening (2026-01-31 → 2026-02-28, Art Quam Anima, Paris)
- Through the Aperture – Research on Harmony (2026-03-09 → 2026-04-30, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

- Dancing with the colibri
- The grumpy Pigeon of Cap Town – South Africa
- Le chant du Chardonneret élégant

Le chant du Chardonneret élégant - Variation 1

MURMURATION

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné — The Seagull of Montparnasse — La
Mouette de Montparnasse — Steel Sculpture of Urban
Wildlife — Arnaud Quercy (2024)

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Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — Digital
Image Documentation - aqc0709_img_full_2127x3545_webp

Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — Physical
Specifications

Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — Symbolizing
Wildness in the City

Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — The Paradox
of Stillness in Flight

Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — The
Sculpture as Territorial Gesture

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

steel sculptureNature in the Cityurban wildlife art

cold-formed steelpolished and patinated steel

abstract bird sculptureArnaud Quercy

seagull sculpturewood block base

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	authorial declaration
Methodology	material research
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

40bc4cac79283dab9264a0308a4d4f20b117b8f4692439724afb14410115304e

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