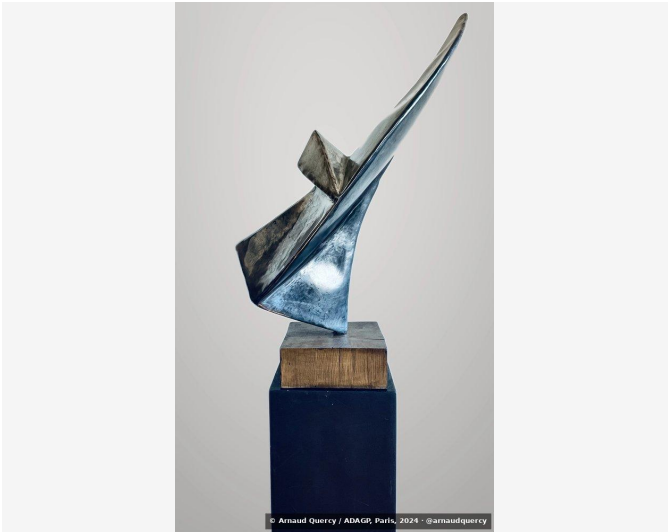


Nanopublication – Symbolizing Wildness in the City

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



CLAIM 1: SYMBOLIZING WILDNESS IN THE CITY

In La Mouette de Montparnasse, I symbolize the persistence of wildness within the urban landscape – not nature curated or domesticated, but a creature that has claimed the city [1] as its own territory without invitation. The seagulls of Boulevard Edgar Quinet are not lost or displaced; they are wild animals that have simply decided this place is theirs.

CONTEXT

The seagull is not a symbol of domesticated nature. It is not a pigeon adapted to human handouts or a sparrow nesting in eaves. The gulls of Montparnasse are coastal predators who have extended their territory inland, occupying the rooftops and market stalls around Boulevard Edgar Quinet with the same confidence they show on Atlantic cliffs. They are loud, assertive, and entirely uninterested in human approval.

This distinction matters. Much contemporary art about urban nature tends toward the elegiac – mourning lost wilderness, documenting fragile ecosystems under threat. La Mouette de Montparnasse takes a different position. The bird I depict is not a victim of urbanization. It is a wild creature that has expanded its domain, claiming the 14th arrondissement as territory just as deliberately as it claims a stretch of coastline. The sculpture is a portrait of that claiming – the moment a wild animal asserts its presence in a space we assume belongs entirely to us.

Within the "Nature in the City" collection, this piece anchors the collection's central question: is the city a place where nature fights to exist, or has it merely become another environment for life to reimagine itself? The seagull answers that question with its body – by simply being there, unhesitant and untamed.

REFERENCES

[1] Quercy, A. (2024). La Mouette de Montparnasse (AQC0709). Nature in the City collection. <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)

Gallery — The Seagull of Montparnasse

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 — The Paradox
of Stillness in Flight

Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — Steel as
Material Resonance

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

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

steel sculpture

Nature in the City

urban wildlife art

cold-formed steel

polished and patinated steel

abstract bird sculpture

Arnaud Quercy

seagull sculpture

wood block base

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	authorial declaration
Methodology	reflective practice
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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Artist	Arnaud Quercy
Date	2024
Collection	Nature in the city
Certificate	20240930-0205
Asset code	AQC0709
Identifier	NAN-CTX000044
Version	1
Published	2026-02-03

ISSN: [pending — Library of Congress]

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Published by Art Quam Anima Publishing New York,
an imprint of AQA PUBLISHING LLC

c/o Northwest Registered Agent, 418 Broadway Ste N
Albany, NY 12207, USA
+1 917-764-5470

publishing.artquamanima.com

Last updated: 2026-06-11

Persistent URI: <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2026/02/AQC0709-symbolizing-wildness-in-the-city.pdf>