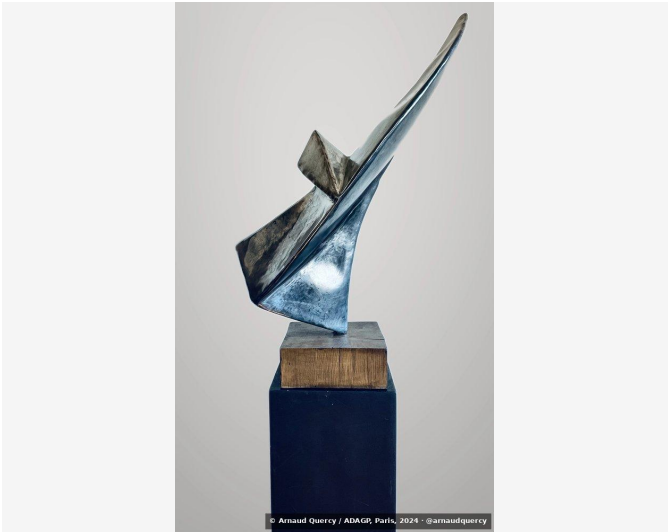


Nanopublication – The Paradox of Stillness in Flight

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



CLAIM 2: THE PARADOX OF STILLNESS IN FLIGHT

I capture the paradox of a seagull hovering against the wind – a state where flight and stillness become indistinguishable. A sculpture is by nature fixed, but in this piece that fixity is not a limitation. It embodies the suspended moment of a bird held motionless by the very force it flies against, making the stillness of sculpture and the stillness of the bird one and the same.

CONTEXT

Sculpture has always contended with the problem of movement. From the frozen stride of classical Greek athletes to Boccioni's futurist forms trailing speed lines in bronze, the medium's fixity is both its defining constraint and its expressive challenge. Most sculptural responses to this problem involve implying motion through arrested gesture – a figure caught mid-step, a body leaning into action.

La Mouette de Montparnasse [1] takes a fundamentally different approach. I do not attempt to freeze a moment of movement. Instead, I depict a state in which the bird itself is genuinely still – hovering against the wind, wings locked, riding an updraft with such precision that it hangs motionless in the air. Anyone who has watched seagulls in a coastal wind knows this moment: the bird faces into the gust, adjusts its wing angle by fractions of a degree, and simply holds its position. It is flying and it is still, simultaneously.

This is the state the sculpture embodies. The sharp upward sweep of the steel form captures the tension between the forward drive of flight and the opposing force of wind that holds the bird in place. The sculpture's own material stillness does not contradict the bird's motion – it becomes the bird's motion, because the bird's motion, in this specific moment, is indistinguishable from stillness. The medium and the subject converge in a shared state of dynamic equilibrium.

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>

- 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

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Wildlife — Arnaud Quercy (2024)

Gallery — The Seagull of Montparnasse

Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — Digital
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Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — Physical
Specifications

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

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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