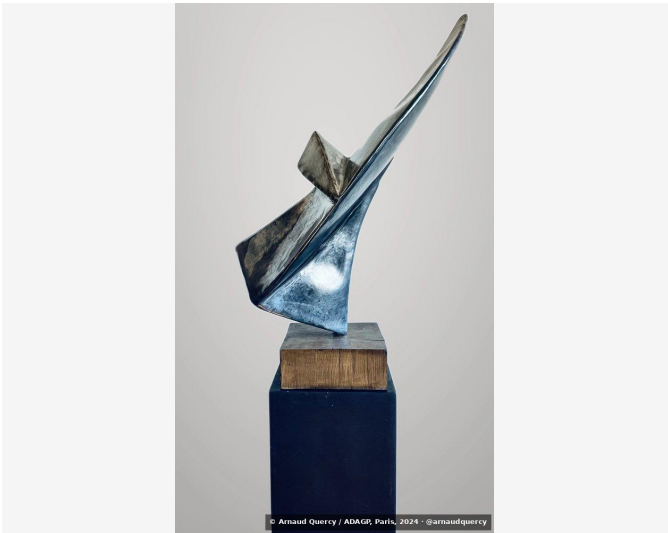


Nanopublication – The Sculpture as Territorial Gesture

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



CLAIM 4: THE SCULPTURE AS TERRITORIAL GESTURE

The sculpture enacts the very territorial gesture it depicts. Just as the seagull claims its place in Montparnasse [1] without permission, I intend this piece to assert its physical presence in any space it occupies – mounted upright on its block like a bird that has simply landed and will not be moved.

CONTEXT

There is a recursive quality to La Mouette de Montparnasse that I consider essential to the work. The sculpture does not merely represent a territorial act – it performs one. At 86 centimeters tall and 12 kilograms of steel, the piece commands physical attention. Mounted vertically on its dark wood block, it occupies space with an upright assertiveness that mirrors the posture of the bird itself. It does not invite the viewer to approach; it simply is, present and unapologetic, the way a seagull on a railing is present and unapologetic.

This mirroring between subject and object is deliberate. A sculpture about claiming space should itself claim space. The dark rectangular base functions as the urban surface – a rooftop, a ledge, a market stall – from which the bird rises. The vertical thrust of the steel form reads as arrival: not a bird in passage but a bird that has landed with purpose and has no intention of leaving. The viewer encounters the piece the way a pedes-

trian encounters a gull on Boulevard Edgar Quinet – with a slight surprise at its boldness, followed by recognition that this creature was here before you and will be here after you leave.

Within the "Nature [3] in the City" collection, this performative dimension connects La Mouette de Montparnasse to the broader thesis that nature does not merely endure in the city but actively claims it. The sculpture, like the bird, enacts rather than illustrates this principle.

REFERENCES

- [1] Quercy, A. (2024). La Mouette de Montparnasse (AQC0709). Steel on wood block, 60 × 86 × 35 cm, 12 kg. 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 — Symbolizing
 Wildness in the City
 Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — The Paradox
 of Stillness in Flight
 Nanopublication — The Seagull of Montparnasse — Steel as
 Material Resonance

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-CTX000047
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-the-sculpture-as-territorial-gesture.pdf>