WELCOME TO NANTES

Street by street, from the Château des ducs de Bretagne to the Passage Pommeraye, and from the Musée d’arts to the Galerie des Machines, Nantes reveals its historical, architectural and artistic riches. Nantes bubbles and sparkles and will surprise with its vibrancy and its capacity to reinvent and renew itself. To discover the city of dukes is to make the most of an exceptional heritage, where plant life lives side by side with urban development, where the artistic trail amazes with its contemporary installations and where public friendly spaces are reachable on foot and by bike. Nantes awaits you… Take the Journey!
**Paysage glissé – Tact Architectes & Tangui Robert**

Visitors can enjoy a paysage glissé ("sliding landscape") thanks to the slide’s structure, where the world outside whizzes past them. Suspended above the moat and creating the illusion that it never touches the castle, this steel ribbon wraps around the contours of the outer wall and invites visitors to get a new perspective on the volumes of Bastion Saint-Pierre, the Tour des Espagnols, or the staircase at the foot of the drawbridge. Guests step onto the slide and discover a one-of-a-kind view, 12 metres (40 ft.) off the ground, offering a full panorama that includes the public courtyard of the castle, the moat gardens, and the historical city centre.

**Éloge du pas de côté – Philippe Ramette**

In Place du Bouffay, Éloge du pas de côté ("Ode to Sidestepping") is a monumental bronze sculpture representing a man in a suit bearing a strong resemblance to the artist, looking out at the horizon. Only one foot stands on the pedestal while the other dangles mid-air. The sculpture thus becomes an allegory of sidestepping and pays tribute to the audacity of a city and its strong commitment to culture. Returning to the codes of classical sculpture, Philippe Ramette created two Éloges ("Odes") which can be found place du Bouffay and Cours Cambronne. This series of Éloges does not pay tribute to the glory of a man, but to an attitude. Whether it is in his drawings, sculptures or photos, Philippe Ramette’s work offers off-kilter and quirky perspectives onto the world. Known for playing a character who is always elegantly dressed in a black suit, his photos show him standing upside down in a right-side up world — and vice-versa. Through these “irrational experiments” he questions reality in its most tangible and physical essence. Like a time-travelling dandy, he defies our world’s rationality and, in its place, offers poetry and humour, as well as an absurd, metaphysical vision.
**Feydball – Barré-Lambot Architectes**

Nantes-based firm Barré-Lambot and landscape gardener Guillaume Sevin invite one and all to strap on their cleats and play Feydball! A sport combining the name of the Nantes neighbourhood of Feydeau, and the game of football. Here, the pitch has kept all of the ground’s natural bumps, its downward slope and, above all, its crescent shape. Fans watch from the steps — which have been transformed into bleachers — and enjoy a game deformed by the field’s grotesque configuration. They can also cheer players on while facing a large, gleaming totem where what they see is inverted: the mirror is warped so that the field and goalposts remain normal, while the players and the ball are deformed.

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**Mètre à ruban – Lilian Bourgeat**

This artist takes great pains to supersize everyday objects, while preserving their exact original appearance. They are transfigured from banal items and suddenly take on an extraordinary, quasi-iconic status. As an indispensable tool for architects, urban planners, workers, and countless other trades, the measuring tape is also essential for Lilian Bourgeat, who carries one everywhere he goes. An exact — but gigantic — copy of his own measuring tape, this one has unravelled in the courtyard of Aethica’s headquarters — a construction company. The work appears as if it were a monument dedicated to the simplicity of an everyday tool — but one which turns constructions from our imagination into concrete reality.
Air – Rolf Julius

As both a sculptor and musician, Rolf Julius tirelessly sought to update the relationship between those two artforms, and create “music for the eyes” — which is also the title of one of his compositions. Visitors discover Air by walking close to the Manny Building (designed by the firm, Tétrarc). Under its metallic skin, a “gentle music for walls” resonates and seems to subtly create an “audible façade”. Somewhere between metallic clicks and distant bird song, this discreet and muffled music brings us back to the building’s immediate environment. By using sound as if it were a material substance, Rolf Julius tries to substitute the image with sound and reduce the importance of vision in order to even out the balance of our sensory perceptions.

Le Jardin Extraordinaire

A 25-metre tall waterfall, a set of steps on a cliffside, seven belvederes overlooking a breathtaking site… A waterfall pouring out between the crawling ivy of Parc Maurice-Schwob on Butte Sainte-Anne hill. Giant water plants, banana trees, large-leaf vegetation, and even tree ferns, all participate in creating an atmosphere where visitors experience “the out-of-the-ordinary, the enormous — just like with Jules Verne.” Looking the Jardin is an itinerary of 7 belvederestyle lookout towers: from rue de l’Hermitage to the Lusançay steps, the belvederes offer stunning vistas of the garden and the Loire River.
**La Cantine du Voyage**

**La Colline – Appelle-moi Papa**

It’s a holiday resort in Nantes, and a surprising, friendly pop-up store for the visitors who discover it. Call it what you want, but it’s an essential stop on any “Journey to Nantes”, with its restaurant area and set menu (chicken and potatoes). There’s also its architecture — designed using greenhouses and accommodating large wooden tables designed by Wudthing, all of which are laid out as if for an enormous banquet — its bar, table football, pétanque strip... and its shop! La Cantine was colourfully decorated by Nantes collective Appelle-moi papa. In keeping with their desire to reaffirm La Cantine’s warm and convivial atmosphere, local graphic design collective Appelle-moi papa imagined La Colline (“the hill”), which looks like it was taken right out of one of their drawings! With its round and generous forms, La Colline is a whimsical, technicolor land where you can climb, roll around, slide, play, lay around — and more.

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**Les Anneaux – Daniel Buren**

Les Anneaux was added to an environment charged with past and future history: it is here that the city’s great naval adventure unfolded... and, today, it is the site of one of Europe’s largest architectural and urban projects. Daniel Buren has been one of the most famous French contemporary artists in the world since Les Deux Plateaux (Palais Royal, Paris, 1986). In 1965, he discovered what would quickly become his “visual tool”: a textile with alternating white and coloured 8.7 cm-wide stripes. Instantly recognizable, simple and minimal, Buren took this pattern out into the street. It remains unchanging in a space where everything around it changes and lives. His works thus become “tools for seeing.” With Les Anneaux Daniel Buren wanted to reveal the double perspective offered by the tip of the island: the architectural perspective, created by the quay, and the natural one, created by the Loire as it opens onto the estuary. A series of 18 rings turns to face the river, offering frames onto the riverscape. At night, the illuminated rings — red, blue and green, three colours at the basis of so many others — become tools allowing us to see the world differently.