

AQC0709

# Nanopublication — Symbolizing Wildness in the City

by Arnaud Quercy [1] · La Mouette de Montparnasse · 2024



SYMBOLIC INTENTION FIRST PERSON AUTHORIAL

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## 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 [2] 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. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>  
<https://arnaudquercy.art/en/the-artist.html>  
<https://arnaudquercy.art/fr/artiste.html>

[2] 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>

[3] Quercy, A. Nature in the City — Collection statement. [https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/09/the-seagull-of-montparnasse\\_7vy.html](https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/09/the-seagull-of-montparnasse_7vy.html)

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| Collection  | Nature in the city |
| Certificate | 20240930-0205      |
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