

AQC0709

# Nanopublication — The Paradox of Stillness in Flight

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



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