

A unique heritage for today...

Ever since its creation in 1958, La Défense has had an ambitious artwork acquisition policy. As a result this area, with its impressive architecture, is now a recognised outlet for cultural expression. Sculptures, paintings, ceramics, frescoes... The greatest artists, from Calder to Richard Serra, including Miró and César, have made their mark on the district. At present there are 67 monumental works, making this the largest open-air contemporary art gallery in France.

... and for tomorrow

That heritage deserves a wider audience today, so Defacto has decided to raise its profile, inviting bids from prospective project management companies, and drawing up plans worthy of the site's ambitions. Frenak et Jullien was the agency chosen to work alongside in Defacto, and the plans should become a reality in 2014.

AN ALL-STAR CAST

The greatest names in contemporary art from France and abroad have put their talents on display in the business district. They include: Yaakov Agam, Émile Aillaud, Alexandre Calder, César, Deverne, Miró, Igor Mitoraj, Moretti, Philolaos, Richard Serra, Takis, Bernar Venet, and more.



Works
of art

emblematic

Their familiar lines are now indissolubly linked with those of the business district.



RED SPIDER, ALEXANDER CALDER

15 metres high, 75 tonnes of steel: despite its great size, Calder's sculpture brings grace to the centre of the Parvis. It was Calder himself who chose the location in 1976.

CHARACTERS, JOAN MIRÓ

This pair of fantastical characters demonstrates Miró's predilection for colour and looseness of form. The Catalan master making a mockery of conformity!



THUMB, CÉSAR

12 metres high and weighing 18 tonnes, this cast metal sculpture was made from an enlarged cast of the artist's thumb. A remarkable achievement both artistically and technically.



DEFENCE OF PARIS, LOUIS-ERNEST BARRIAS

It was from this statue that the business district got its name. Erected in 1883 in honour of the soldiers who defended the capital during the 1870 war, the work was installed in that year at its present location, the La Défense roundabout. Symbolic!



Works
of art

pastoral

In La Défense, art is inspired by nature. Four works prove this.



FOUNTAIN, YAACOV AGAM

A superb example of kinetic art, the monumental fountain designed by Israeli artist Yaakov Agam is set against an 86-colour Venetian enamel mosaic. There is a sense of movement along the cascade, with 66 jets propelling water 15 metres into the air, accompanied by a sequence of music.



VEGETAL WALL, PATRICK BLANC

Installed in 2006 on one façade of the Quatre-Temps shopping centre, this mosaic of plants, grasses and flowers comes across as an evocation of the jungle. Its creator, Patrick Blanc, is a botanist and one of the world's leading tropical plant experts.



VEGETAL CHIMNEY, ÉDOUARD FRANÇOIS

Whilst most ventilation chimneys around the district are covered with mosaics, this one close to the Coeur Défense building is clad in a surprising combination of copper, wood and vegetation. An island of life, 16 metres tall.



TAKIS POOL, TAKIS

The Greek artist came up with this expanse of water above which 49 multi-coloured lights have been set at differing heights. Fully integrated into the district's historic axis, these lights twinkle as night falls. A cheerful, enchanting ballet.



Works
of art

graphic

Surprising, innovative, challenging: they echo the site's architecture.



DISPLACED ARC, CHRISTINE O'LOUGHLIN

For an exhibition of urban art, La Défense called upon the Australian artist to create an artistic gap in the lawn at the Place de la Défense. A simple cut was made, the plants were moved in an arc... and the illusion was complete!



SLAT, RICHARD SERRA

This 11 metre high sculpture is in fact a house of cards, comprising five sheets of steel, each weighing around 20 tonnes. First displayed in 1984, the work was taken down and reinstalled in 2008 on a more suitable site.

LA DÉFONCE, FRANÇOIS MORELLET

Installed in 1990, this sculpture comprises a number of metal beams. One sticks into the ground, another goes through a building. Hence the pun in its title, "La Défonce" (meaning "break-up"). Elegance, purity, power.



TWO INDETERMINATE LINES, BERNAR VENET

Irregular lines, changing depending on your point of view, offering no spatial points of reference: this work is one of a series of creations whose (lack of) logic inspired the name "Two Indeterminate Lines".





The artworks of La Défense

- 1** After Olympia
Artist: Caro
Created: 1986-87
Installed: 1991
CD7
- 2** Anamorphosis
Artist: Rieti
Installed: 1985
D8
- 3** Spider
Artist: Calder
Created: 1974
Installed: 1976
D8
- 4** Displaced Arc
Artist: O'Loughlin
Installed: 1994
DE8
- 5** Bas-relief in copper
Artist: Legendre
Created: 1969
Installed: 1979
DE7
- 6** Takis Pool,
Artist: Takis

- Installed: 1988
DE13
- 7** Benches and the Black Pyramid
Artist: Émile Aillaud
Installed: 1985
E8
- 8** BC1
Artist: Jakober
Installed: 1988
E11
- 9** Fantastical Bestiary)
Artist: Diva
Installed: 2006
E7
- 10** Northern, bas-relief
Artist: Adam-Tessier
Installed: 1969
DE7
- 11** Map of the Sky
Artist: Raynaud
Created: 1989

- Installed: 1990
D5
- 12** Poppy Field
Artist: Feff
Installed: 2006
C9
- 13** Vegetal Chimney
Artist: François
Installed: 2004
D10
- 14** Starry Sky
Artist: Carratero
Installed: 2006
E7
- 15** Knowledge
Artist: students from the Higher School of Metal Foundry
Installed: 2003
C5
- 16** Lady Moon
Artist: Silva
Installed: 1977
E9

- 17** Dance
Artist: Selinger
Installed: 1983
E11
- 18** In Our Fathers' Footsteps
Artist: Jankovic
Installed: 1990
D11
- 19** Defence of Paris
Artist: Barrias
Installed: 1883
DE 8-9
- 20** La Défonce,
Artist: Morellet
Installed: 1990
E9
- 21** Two Indeterminate Lines)
Artist: Venet
Installed: 1988
E12
- 22** Staircase)
Artist: Kowalski
Installed: 1989
E6

- 23** Defacto La Gallery Exhibition Hall
Opened 2008
E13
- 24** Cycling Family
Artist: Feff
Installed: 2007
C10
- 25** Corolla Fountain
Artist: Leygue
Installed: 1973
D10
- 26** Dialogue Fountain
Artist: Busato
Installed: 1989
D14
- 27** Agam Monumental Fountain
Artist: Agam
Created: 1975-77
Installed: 1988
DE9

- 28** Fragments of the Berlin Wall
Installed: 1995
D8
- 29** Monumental Fresco
Artist: Dewasne
Installed: 1989
E5
- 30** Le Grand Toscano
Artist: Mitoraj
Installed: 1983
D8
- 31** Frog
Artist: Torricini
Installed: 1987
E12
- 32** City Men
Artist: Siptrott
Installed: 1995
D12
- 33** Icarus)
Artist: Mitoraj
Installed: 2001
C5

- 34** Inlays
Artist: Sandjian
Installed: 1999
D4
- 35** Ikaria
Artist: Mitoraj
Created: 1987
Installed: 2000
C5
- 36** Fragrant Garden
Artist: Ughetto
Installed: 2006
E7
- 37** Body Sites
Artist: Delfino
Installed: 1983
C8
- 38** Memorial to the return of Napoleon's ashes
Artist: Puccinelli
Installed: 1980
C14
- 39** Mosaic
Artist: Deverne

- Installed: 1982
C12
- 40** Le Moretti
Artist: Moretti
Installed: 1995
D11
- 41** Vegetal Wall
Artist: Blanc
Installed: 2006
E6
- 42** Water Lilies
Artist: Philolaos
Installed: 1989
D10
- 43** Mechanical Bird
Artist: Philolaos
Installed: 1972
D10
- 44** Ophelia
Artist: Fenosa
Created: 1951
Installed: 1987
E11
- 45** Characters
Artist: Miró

- Installed: 1976
E8
- 46** Place des Degrés
Artist: Kowalski
Created: 1987-89
F6
- 47** Focal Points
Artist: Casadesus
Installed: 1981
E8
- 48** Point Growth
Artist: Lim Dong-Lak
Created: 1999
Installed: 2006
E9
- 49** Thumb
Artist: César
Created: 1965
Installed: 1994
D6
- 50** Four Heads
Artist: Young
Installed: 2002
C5
- 51** Rhythms
Artist: Deverne
Installed: 1970
DE6
- 52** Cloud Sculptor
Artist: Atila
Created: 1969
Installed: 1972
D10
- 53** Monumental light sculpture in Swarovski crystal
Artist: Kiko Lopez
Installed: 2006
E6
- 54** SLAT
Artist: Serra
Created: 1983
Installed: 2007
D5
- 55** Light Signals
Artist: Takis
Installed: 1990
D5
- 56** Sleepwalker
Artist: De Miller
Installed: 1983
D12
- 57** Pouvreau Stone
Artist: Paul Belmondo
Created: 1970
Installed: 2007
D7

- 58** Earth
Artist: Derbré
Created: 1972
Installed: 1978
D11
- 59** Tindara
Artist: Mitoraj
Installed: 1997
E5
- 60** Hyphens
Artists: Mathieu-Bachelot and Ropion
Installed: 1979
DE7
- 61** Three Trees
Artist: Grataloup
Installed: 1988
E10
- 62** Les Utsurohi
Artist: Miyawaki
Created: 1988
Installed: 1989
D6
- 63** Face
Artist: Rieti
Installed: 1985
D8
- 64** Long Live the Wind
Artist: Deverne
Installed: 1986
D9
- 65** Grouped Curls)
Artist: Mathieu-Bachelot
Installed: 1981
DE6
- 66** Bird Column
Artist: Torricini
Installed: 1981
E6
- 67** Vegetal Wall Porte de Paris
Artist: Blanc
Installed: 2008
E6
- 68** Wall of Light
Artist: Moity
Installed: 2008
E6

Did you know?

20,000 WORKS IN THE BASEMENT

The National Centre for the Visual Arts is located in La Défense. This public body, which is responsible for supporting artistic creativity, also manages the National Contemporary Art Fund (FNAC). The FNAC holds the largest contemporary art collection in France, storing 20,000 works in its vaults, arranged by institution.

READ

The *artworks* guide can be downloaded for free from the Defacto website:
<http://www.ladefense.fr/fr/kiosque/guide-oeuvres-dart-fr>

VISIT

→ Guided walks are regularly organised by the authority. For more information, please visit ladefense.fr

→ The Espace Info Défense (Défense info point) is there to answer any questions you may have about La Défense. The staff there will guide you on your visit. You can also buy guides, maps etc.
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guide Defacto

ARTWORKS



In La Défense, artworks are everywhere. Some are obvious, such as the sculptures by Calder and Miró, which stand at the centre of the Parvis. Others are more discrete, tucked away in the surrounding districts. A collection which is open to all, managed and maintained by Defacto.

