



A SUMMER IN LE HAVRE 2017

ART THROUGHOUT
THE CITY, EXHIBITIONS,
PERFORMANCES, CELEBRATIONS

PRESS KIT

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LE
HAVRE
500
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FOREWORD



The chance to celebrate a 500th anniversary is a rare one — and in 2017, Le Havre has this chance!

A chance to take a new look at our city — a look that will perhaps prove surprising. A chance to tell the world what we are and what we can do. 2017 will also mark a celebration of our identity. A happy identity, which does not revel in regrets of the past; an identity built from courage; an identity that looks lucidly on the glories and the shadows of the past; on the powers as well as the challenges of the present — but an optimistic identity, the porter of future projects. We are an open city — generous, creative, conquering. All this we will declare to France, to Europe and to the world next year.

A Summer in Le Havre in 2017 will be a feast for the Havrais, a party for all who come to discover or rediscover Le Havre and, in terms of its scale and scope, an unprecedented cultural event.

For five months, from May to November, an artistic urban intervention will animate the city with a range of surprises. The quality and extensiveness of the program, designed by Jean Blaise, as well as a scheduled series of major happenings will ensure that this season will be an unforgettable one.

Check it out; Be surprised; Await it impatiently! A “*Summer in Le Havre*” in 2017? I want everyone to be proud to say, years later: “I was there!”

**Édouard PHILIPPE, Mayor of Le Havre,
Deputy of the Seine-Maritime department**



In the spring of 2017, on the occasion of Le Havre’s 500th anniversary, visual artists, designers, graphic designers, choreographers, directors and novelists will retrace the steps of Niemeyer and Monet, reinterpreting this amazing city in order to reveal it to Europe — and perhaps to itself.

Arriving in Le Havre, Niemeyer’s “Volcano” is a monument open to the sky; Océane Port leads to a beach frequented by tranquil bathers who watch the horizon, as the world’s largest container ships pass by.

Le Havre is full of strange images. This photogenic city initially seduced arriving artists with its light — today, this element of its landscape has become so well-known it verges on cliché — but it won them over with its atmosphere, which the proposed artworks will reveal. How to recreate an ambiance, to rediscover the depth of a city, through artistic gestures that will bring it to life?

Le Havre, rebuilt in the fifties by the studio of architect Auguste Perret and declared a World Heritage Site in 2005, clearly deserves to become one France’s most desired urban tourism destinations.

We need only to understand this city, to love it, to highlight and discover those who can bring it to life with their energy and talent, to treat it boldly but fairly, to bring out its strangeness, and its overwhelming poetry.

Jean BLAISE, Art Director

On top: Édouard PHILIPPE,
Mayor of Le Havre,
Deputy of Seine-Maritime
© Eric Hourii

At the bottom: Jean BLAISE,
Art director
© ES.Bellanger

1517-2017: THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF LE HAVRE



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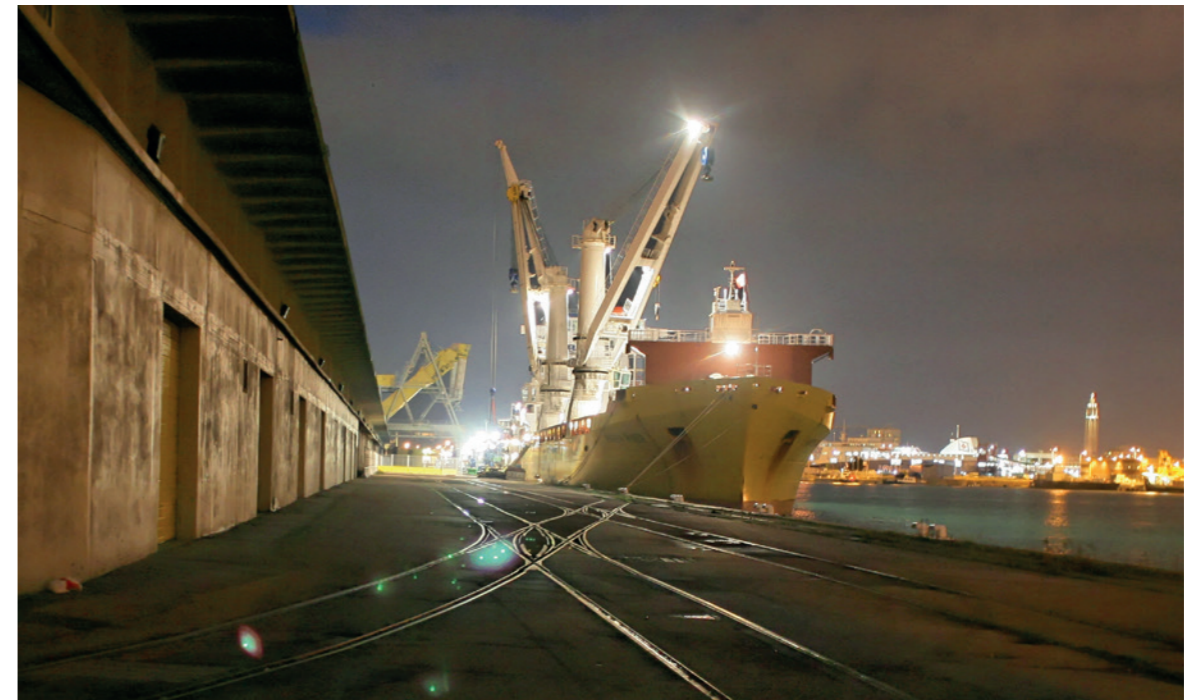
A SUMMER
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2017

FROM THE BIRTH OF LE HAVRE THROUGH ITS OPENING TOWARD THE WORLD

THE BIRTH OF A PORT CITY

On February 7, 1517, François I orders the creation of a fortified port in the "lieu de Grasse;" on October 8 of the same year, he signs the founding charters of the city.

Before this date, during the Middle Ages, the Seine Estuary was placed under the influence of the ports of Harfleur and Honfleur. Their siltation combined with territorial ambitions and booming commercial development led to the birth of a new, larger port that is better equipped to respond to the economic opportunities and defensive needs of the kingdom. The site of the new port, located North of the mouth of the Seine and already known as Le Havre de Grâce, is chosen for strategic reasons. A small cove that will become the current Roy Basin is claimed by Guyon Le Roy, Admiral of the Chillou. Subsequently, the port becomes a royal city in the XVI century, and François I entrusts its planning and foundation to Italian architect Girolamo Bellarmato. This urban project revolves around St. Michel Street (later known as Paris Street), the Roy Basin, whose use is reserved for the Royal Navy, and the two districts of Notre Dame and Saint-François. Only the "Grand Quai" (later known as Southampton Quay) is dedicated to Commerce.



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A SUMMER
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URBAN PLANNING, MARITIME DEVELOPMENT, AND PROSPERITY

Beginning in the eighteenth century, the military port is given over to maritime commerce: ship-owners are made rich through trade, notably the trade of coffee, cotton and chocolate, and more marginally through triangular trade, which ushers in a new era of unprecedented prosperity. This growth encourages the construction of a new town in the North, and leads to the drilling of basins dedicated to business (Commerce and Barre basins), all according to the plans conceived by architect and engineer François-Laurent Lamandé from 1787 onward. But under the pressure of an ever-more populated city center, the Second Empire decides to level the outer walls and replace them with wide boulevards. The defensive system of the city, therefore, is now based on a Vauban-esque belt of strongholds, two of which are still standing today (Fort Tourneville, which has been converted into a creative site for artists, and Sainte-Adresse, now known as the Hanging Gardens): Le Havre increases its size five-fold by annexing surrounding villages and suburbs.

Thus Le Havre experiences its golden age, a century of prosperity brought on by the Industrial Revolution and the trafficking of raw materials (cotton, coffee, spices, exotic woods...). The social paternalists immigrated from the east of France contribute to the urban, social, political, economic and cultural development of the city and the port. The waterfront is urbanized, thanks to the rise in the practice of sea-bathing, and Le Havre becomes a veritable seaside destination in the early twentieth century. The transport of passengers is not to be outdone by the rise of transatlantic liners connecting Le Havre and New York...

THE UNDOING

World War II took a terrible toll on Le Havre, transforming it into one of Europe's most devastated cities: the German occupation, as well as the Allied bombings of September 5 and 6, 1944, annihilated the city center and caused several thousand deaths, the destruction of 20,000 homes and the harm of nearly 80,000 Havrais.

Port 2000
© Erik Levilly-VDH

FROM RECONSTRUCTION TO CLASSIFICATION AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE: LE HAVRE, MODERN CITY

AN IDENTITY ERECTED IN CONCRETE

The reconstruction project established under the auspices of the Ministry of Reconstruction and Urban Development is entrusted to the architect Auguste Perret. With the assistance of his workshop, which features some hundred architects, Perret applies the principles of structural classicism to the project, combining the use of reinforced concrete with a classical vocabulary while emphasizing space, comfort, movement and light. Le Havre becomes an urban laboratory, unique among its contemporaries in its exceptional scope, its avant-garde urban planning processes, its unprecedented constructive coherence, and its new techniques of prefabrication.

Auguste Perret and his collaborators come together to build 10,000 homes in the city center. Everything is designed to promote circulation, and the buildings are erected according to a singular standard, the Perret model apartment; the original treatment applied to the concrete produces variations in tone according to the light. Auguste Perret thus builds lodgings that are new and durable, featuring flexible spaces, open kitchens, built-in cupboards, bright living rooms and dazzling entry halls.

Prominent buildings come into being; the Church of Saint Joseph du Havre, whose spire rises 107 meters, towers above the city like a lighthouse or a New York City skyscraper. It is considered to be a great architectural masterpiece of this period. There is also City Hall; the Collective Housing buildings (ISAI) that border on City Hall's square and gardens; Perret's model apartment (Apartment-Temoine Perret); and the Océane Porte and the South Sea Front, opening the city to the sea and the harbor — all of which comprise the masterpieces of this architectural ensemble.

THE MAGNETISM OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAM

Perret's work finds its place in line with the grand tradition of the architects of the Reconstruction — Guy Lagneau and Jean Prouvé for the Museum of Modern Art; Othello Zavaroni for the Stock Exchange (now the Casino); Guillaume Gillet for the commercial basin; Georges Candilis for residential housing blocks. But it is of course Oscar Niemeyer's House of Culture, nicknamed "The Volcano," inaugurated in 1982 and today rehabilitated as a library and National Theatre, which will complete the reconstruction: the poetry of the Brazilian architect's curves placed in compelling dialogue with the perfect orthogonals of the master of structural classicism.

This tradition of architectural excellence, which enabled the reconstructed city-center of Le Havre to make its way on to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2005, persists today, with many achievements made since 2000; the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the University Library of René Dottelonde and Phine Weeke Dottelonde, the student housing blocks by Charlotte and Alberto Catani; Paul Auxitec Chemetov's Engineering headquarters; *Les Bains de Docks*, by Jean Nouvel; *The Swinging Bridge* by Charles Thomas Lavigne; the rehabilitation of the Vauban Docks by the firm of Reichen and Robert; and, more recently (2013), The Tetris project by Martin Lawrence and Vincent Duteurtre, and The Sonic, by the workshop of AsA architects — two new cultural facilities dedicated to contemporary music in the heart of Tourneville Fort.

The ultramodern architectural thrust of the new Océane Stadium, directed by Luc Delamain, integrates perfectly into the industrial landscape, and the new Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM) of Normandy is signed by AIA Architects. From 2018 onward, the redevelopment of Southampton Quay will be orchestrated by landscape architect Michel Desvigne. The project intends to extend the seafront promenade all the way to the historic basins and the city-port interface.



Le Havre, an oceanfront modern city
© Philippe Bréard-VDH

(RE)DISCOVERING LE HAVRE

Le Havre's reputation was set by a misunderstanding, a modernity carried by a visionary architect, airy and dominated by concrete, but rejected by several generations of Havrais. Even today, Le Havre is a city that requires explanation. Since 2005, the way Havrais themselves see their city has changed. We recognize him incredibly light, absolute rock'n'roll spirit, pervasive graphic culture, a concrete architecture, a port in the city.

UNESCO's designation of Le Havre as a World Heritage destination enabled both Havrais and visitors to open their eyes to the city's unexpected beauty. Anchored by its pebble beaches and sea port, designed by renowned urban planner Alexander Chemetoff, Le Havre continues to attract visitors who hail from farther and farther away.

WATER, LIGHT, AND CONTRAST

Le Havre is a deep-water seaport, able to accommodate — without canal locks — the movement of massive ships, regardless of the tide. Created for precisely these reasons in the sixteenth century, the port and the city have always been able to keep pace with the increasing size of trade and passenger ships, thus capitalizing on the fortunes of various trades, from coffee to cotton and chocolate, while remaining resistant to setbacks.

Located two hours from Paris, Le Havre is a unique context for sailing, from the massive container ships, ferries, and cruise ships lined up in the harbor to the majestic cliffs of the Alabaster Coast. Through the development of its infrastructure, Le Havre offers amateur boatmen both sea and culture, a surprising and unexpected framework for their preferred aquatic activity. The sport of sailing has always attracted Havrais. The first races were organized in the late nineteenth century, as they imitated their British neighbors. The doyenne of sailing clubs in Europe, the Regatta Society Le Havre (SRH), which was established in 1838, remains a major player in the development of sailing and water sports in Seine Bay.

From the "Normandy CUP," geared towards the amateurs and professionals of Diam 24 as well as other hot rods of the seas, to the "Havre Allmer CUP," France Elite's championship trial for solo racing, through its multiple courses for students and youth, such as the "Student Sails," competitions abound. Not to mention of course the famous Jacques Vabre Transatlantic Race, a formidable two-handed transatlantic trial, which requires a veritable athletic challenge to be performed at the same time. For 22 years, the city of Le Havre has organized this event. The 13th edition will begin on November 5, 2017.

But it's not just the skippers who profit from this ideally oriented seaside landscape. Le Havre is a particularly favorable spot, according to swell, for sports from windsurfing, kite surfing, speed-sailing, body boarding, stand-up paddle, skimboarding, surfing, wakeboarding, rowing...



NUMEROUS VISTAS OFFER FANTASTIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE CITY

From the mid-eighteenth century onward, the stepped landscape called the “Coast” has been home to the pavilions and villas of large Havrais families. Beyond the residential aspect, the elevated views offered a useful military advantage before becoming places of relaxation and leisure.

In the fourteenth century, the destruction of the ramparts allowed the city to expand all the way outward to the cliff edges, which dominate the sea from one hundred meters up. The “curb” describes the height difference between the Upper City and the Lower City.

On the slopes, many villas were built by rich families who had accumulated wealth through maritime trade. From the Graille Abbey all the way to the coast, more than 100 stairs bring the city to great heights. Their routes are flanked by the most beautiful villas; The walker who explores them, while benefiting from unexpected views of the city as he ascends, will have the chance to explore an architectural environment marked by the economic and patrimonial heritage of the city.

Le bassin de commerce
© Scott Hardy



The funicular, nicknamed the “funi” by the young and “the String” by their elders, offers an alternative to ascending the Curb on foot. Located in the Lower City, near the Hotel de Ville, the funicular allows visitors to reach the plateau (Felix Faure street) in three minutes, and to benefit from a panoramic view of the city, the port, and the estuary. The operating hours of this urban machine, which runs on Sundays, are adapted to suit the cultural events organized in the interior of the “Fort,” located 200 meters from the station.

Continue this exploration of the city’s heights, walking towards the sea, and visitors arrive at the Hanging Gardens. Often described as the “Remarkable Garden,” this vast, 17-hectare space offers a spectacular view of the Channel and the horizon. It includes 9 hectares of themed gardens dedicated to great explorers of the past, and 5000m² of greenhouses. Created in the vestiges of Fort Sainte-Adresse, which was built in 1856, the garden is an original example of the repurposing of a former military site. This rehabilitation began in 2005, under the auspices of landscape architect Samuel Cracker, architect Olivier Bressac and botanist Jean-Pierre Demoly.

Funicular going downtown
© Philippe Bréard-VDH

A GROWING CULTURAL INFLUENCE

Driven by the desire to confirm Le Havre's place among France's major cities, cultural policy participates actively in the dynamic of development, urban modernization and expansion, all while cultivating a pluralistic identity: the identity of a port city – cradled by the fantasy and the reality of maritime horizons – and an estuary city, that of an industrial city, that of a city built on contemporary architecture, that of a city of light, that of a photogenic city, that of a city of writers.

VALUES OF EXCELLENCE, GENEROSITY AND VISIBILITY

The value that animates Le Havre first and foremost is that of excellence. Every artistic proposal must be defined primarily by its creativity, its innovation, and its high production quality, in order to offer the best to the largest number. Individuality and generosity are the second founding principles of Le Havre. Lastly, visibility, power of cultural influence and attractiveness constitute the third tier of values for Le Havre's cultural policy.

The literary festival *The Taste of Others* responds perfectly to these concerns, with the demandingness of its programming, the diversity of its proposals — always suited to a wide audience — and the singularity of its format in the realm of national literary events. Similarly, the "Literary Walk," which is inviting as much as an urban stroll as an intellectual discovery of the historic writers who were born in or lived in Le Havre, satisfies these values, hewing to the principles of creativity and originality that are the hallmarks of Le Havre.

The *MoZ'Airque* festival, dedicated to world music, has all the heart and soul required to achieve these ambitions. The exhibitions proposed in Le Havre's three museums, first and foremost the André Malraux Modern Art Museum – the MuMa – which holds the most important collection of Impressionism outside of Paris — promise to offer their visitors edifying, moving, and impressive programming.

THE PARTNERSHIP METHOD

The city of Le Havre supports a cultural policy rooted in the principle of partnerships with local cultural actors. In the scope of its ambitions and in its originality, this policy is sure to take an unprecedented place in the national framework. It supports, with great conviction, initiatives that are proposed by associations, broadcasting venues like the Tétris, which was built by Papa's Production Association, rehearsal studios for the music schools built by the EMC association, and the construction of new independent movie theatres proposed by SCIC, "The Sirius."

The "Fort!" association will oversee the development of this formerly unknown cultural terrain, through the co-production of an artistic project by cultural figures working together with public institutions. All these projects are accompanied, supported and co-financed by the municipality.



FOUR PRIMARY AXES OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Le Livre, reading and writing, respond to an essential social need in Le Havre. The "Reading in La Havre" initiative, marked by the creation of 7 alternative spaces called "reading rooms," by the diffusion of "wandering" books in more than 100 locations, and by the creation of a residential book-delivery service for the elderly and the handicapped, will gather new momentum and acquire new initiatives in the fall of 2016. The new Oscar Niemeyer library is, above all, the embodiment of the cultural ambition that Le Havre has always maintained.

Music constitutes the second municipal priority. A handful of new projects will be unveiled during the fall of 2016. Demanding, generous, and creative, "Vibrate at Le Havre" will invite massive numbers to discover musical learning at an early age, from promoting musical practice within art education spaces as well as outside them, to encouraging the discovery of music through exposure to exciting, surprising concerts proposed all over the region.

Impressionist painting, like all the visual arts and forms of contemporary architecture that are included in UNESCO's classification as world heritage, are the pillars of the territory's cultural value and pride.

The year 2017, during which the city and the port of Le Havre will celebrate the fifth century of their birth, will constitute a major priority in the life of the region.

FROM CLAUDE MONET TO MAYLIS DE KERANGAL, A MUSE CITY

Located at the mouth of the Seine, offering an escape route and a path to Paris, Le Havre has inspired the greatest of artists. Celebrated painters including William Turner, Eugène Boudin, Gustave Courbet, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Georges Braque, Othon Friesz, Raoul Dufy, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Maurice de Vlaminck, etc., all stopped in Le Havre to capture the intensity of its light. Claude Monet painted his world-renowned canvas *Impression, Rising sun*, in Le Havre in 1872.

On January 29, 1096, a group of collectors and artists including Georges Braque, Othon Friesz, and Raoul Dufy founded the Circle of Modern Art, which permitted Havrais painters to exhibit their work in their city. Guillaume Apollinaire, Claude Debussy and Frantz Jourdain would eventually bring their own patronage to the association.



Claude Monet, *Impression, soleil levant*,
1872, oil on canvas, 50 x 65 cm,
Paris, Musée Marmottan Monet,
© Bridgeman Images



The work of the greatest artists of the time was brought to the public in four annual exhibitions that united the early Impressionists, including Monet and Renoir, the Neo-Impressionists such as Signac, and above all the young Fauvists, from Matisse, Derain and Van Dongen to Vlaminck and Manguin, coached by their friends Braque, Dufy and Friesz.

Le Havre thus asserted itself as one of the founding cities of Fauvism, an artistic movement which had just emerged. The constantly modernizing port became the subject of their canvases, continuing Monet's investigations.

These immense figures of Impressionism would forge the path for photographers and filmmakers to come. La Havre's exceptional light inspired artists from Renoir to Kaurismäki to feel deep attachment to this graphic city. Today, the best collection of Impressionist artwork outside of Paris is located in the André Malraux Modern Art Museum.

The unconventional atmosphere of this seaside destination has also inspired numerous writers and filmmakers, notably Georges Méliès, Jean Vigo, Marcel Carne, Jean Renoir, Juliet Berto, Aki Kaurismäki.

It is in Le Havre that Sartre invented his concept of existentialism. Le Havre also saw the birth of Raymond Queneau, Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, Casimir Delavigne, and other more contemporary figures such as Philippe Huet, Philippe Garnier, Marie-Aude Murail, and Guillaume Le Touze, for whom Le Havre remained the port-of-call throughout his life. Inspired by their native soil, many creative figures drew from Le Havre as a source of inspiration, casting the city as the theatre to host their stories, and giving life to the protagonists of their imagination.

In the very heart of the city, François I Highschool educated great writers: Raymond Aron, Georges Limbour, Raymond Queneau and Armand Salacrou were all students there, and Sartre taught philosophy there while he was writing *Nausea*.

A number of important works of classical literature evoke Le Havre: Balzac and his *Modeste Mignon*, *La Force de l'âge* by Simone de Beauvoir, Flaubert's *Bouvard et Pécuchet*, as well as *Pierre et Jean* by Maupassant and *La bête humaine* by Zola. Today, the particular atmosphere of the city, its lights and its maritime energy, continue to inspire, extending all the way to the writer Maylis Kerangal, whose pen continues to be moved and motivated by Le Havre.

Benoît Duteurtre, Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Jean Dubuffet, Michel Leiris, Henry Miller, Christophe Ono-Dit-Biot, Pascal Quignard, Georges Simenon, Stendhal, Jean Rollin, Jean-Christophe Rufin, François Vallejo, Jérôme Soligny are also associated with Le Havre, either through their roots, their travels, or their writings.

MuMa, musée d'art moderne
André Malraux
© Philippe Bréard-VDH

A BOLD CITY UNDERGOING TRANSFORMATION

Thanks to its geographic location, its architecture, its pioneering spirit and its innovative public policies, Le Havre is a singular city. Shaped by a history that has forced it to reinvent itself again and again, Le Havre contains a strand of creative DNA that has transformed the city into an ideal laboratory for reworking and developing its region and neighborhoods.

LE HAVRE: ENTRY GATE TO LARGER PARIS

For all time and all over the world, the greatest metropoli and the cities of global scale have been able to achieve their stature as a result of their access to the sea. This is even truer in a globalized economy, in which products circulate essentially through maritime trade routes. Businesses, jobs and activities pop up near trade ports, extending along the routes that serve them or connect them to big cities.

For Paris, this access route passes through Rouen and the Seine Valley — and Le Havre is its gateway. The more Le Havre is able to capitalize on these maritime networks of trade and commerce, the better it serves the Ile de France and the enormous basin of which Paris is the heart, and the better Paris is equipped to bolster its ranking as a city of the world and an international capital. For Paris, Rouen and Le Havre, whose destinies are linked, these issues are essential — at once strategic, political and economic.

The development of the Seine Valley provides a prime opportunity to innovate in all domains, including the environment, quality of life, and culture, because all of these elements — for our fellow citizens — attract with equal force. That is why, for several years, initiatives in the region have multiplied: Le Havre's candidacy to host the 2024 Olympic Games' sailing trials as a backup to Paris; the open call for "Reinvent the Seine" projects, launched by Paris, Rouen and Le Havre to conceive new ways of living along the water; the *Water and Earth* festival and the related 100 cultural events that pop up on the two banks of the river, between Le Havre and Deauville; the *Global Estuary Forum*, which meets every 2 years in the heart of the Seine Estuary, and unites economists and scientists from around the world to discuss common problems.

There are so many events, initiatives and projects with one common goal: to highlight the Seine Axis. And the greatest beneficiaries of these endeavors are Le Havre, Rouen, and greater Paris!



A DOWNTOWN CAMPUS ON THE WATER'S EDGE

The greater Le Havre area has conceived a campus design that aims to unite, at the heart of the Le Havre and at the City-Port interface — near the University, the train stations and the connection with the tramway — the establishments, lodgings and locations of life and activity of 12,000 students.

The Le Havre region has advantages that are industrial, maritime and logistic, all directed toward international commerce. The city also has the potential to become a hub of excellence in education. In the neighborhoods that are currently undergoing renovations, Le Havre intends simply to build selective schools: l'ISEL (L'Institut Supérieur d'Etudes Logistiques), Science Po Asie, l'INSA, l'ENSM (École Nationale Supérieure Maritime), le Pôle Ingénieur et Logistique, l'École de Management de Normandie (EMN), l'IFEN (Institut de Formation des Éducateurs de Normandie) or l'IUT.

A VERITABLE SECOND LIFE FOR THE SOUTH DISTRICT

The region's dock workers and sailors do not adequately appreciate the neighborhood of Eure and its surroundings. Situated at the interface between the city and the port, this popular district has experienced a spate of recent developments thanks to ambitious renovations that reconcile the traces of the past with the advances of modernity. The process of conversion has been underway for ten years. The vestiges of the port and industrial zone have been transformed into exhibition venues, performance halls and commercial hubs (the Vauban Docks). A new aquatic complex has been envisioned by Jean Nouvel (Les Bains des Docks). A Congress Center will be inaugurated at the end of 2016. The recreational and business-minded vocations of sites surrounding the basins are clear.

Luxury homes and social housing coexist. A university residence has been built from shipping containers. The Molière educational terminal has been recently built with the intention of better recognizing the profound demographic transformation of the neighborhood.

Bains des Docks designed
by l'architecte Jean Nouvel
© Philippe Bréard-VDH

A NEW FACE FOR THE "GRAND QUAY" OF LE HAVRE

The view offered from Southampton Quay over the port of Le Havre is known around the world. It is there that Claude Monet set his easel on autumn morning in 1872 to paint the canvas *Impression, Rising Sun*. A few meters away, where today sits MuMa, the André Malraux Museum of Modern Art, one would have encountered the chic clientele of the Grand Hotel Frascati in 1944. The war put an end to the seaside vocation of these sites. Southampton Quay devoted itself to the development of port-side activities, until the creation of the modern Port 2000 drew those activities to the southeast quarter of the city. At the dawn of its 500th year, Le Havre is ready to give that earlier vocation back to the sea front. The vast project of recertification, orchestrated by the landscape architect Michel Desvigne, integrates new spaces for relaxation and leisure, terraces, and the creation of new businesses. The renovations, which extend the seaside promenade all the way to the historic basins and the City-Port interface, begin 6 km earlier, at Fort Sainte-Adresse.

DOLLEMARD: VALIDATING THE PLATEAU DISTRICT

Backed up against a country of cliffs, Le Havre extends and soars to great heights in Dollemard. An ambitious project to create a promenade is underway, one that would give the cliffs all the status they deserve. The Havrais are convinced that these cliffs are as stunning as those of Etretat!

This project would enable the realization of a coastal pathway that would conserve the wild landscape while creating leisure zones — thus connecting the urbanized zones and the protected landscapes while suppressing activities that are toxic to the environment.

DUMONT D'URVILLE, AN INTEGRATED TRANSFORMATION

After much negotiation, the inhabitants of and visitors to Dumont D'Urville, which extends the Saint-Nicolas neighborhood and the Dombasle Docks, have initiated the area's transformation. They imagine it to be urban, diverse and balanced, combining housing, offices and high-quality public spaces. The negotiations, which took place over the course of a year and a half, resulted in a series of sketches that integrate the aspirations of the locals and the appropriation of a program established by the City.



The sector will be rich in public spaces that have been redone to increase user-friendliness, a playground will become a veritable community space open to the neighborhood, a large square will be created, the retirement home will be converted into a meeting point for all generations, traffic will be reorganized, and new service roads for local residents will be built. Eventually, about 550 housing units (of which 20% will be social housing) and offices will be built harmoniously. With wider streets, more green spaces, terraces and roof gardens, the area will be more pleasant to live in for both current residents as well as new arrivals.

APLEMONT, LIVING BETTER TOGETHER

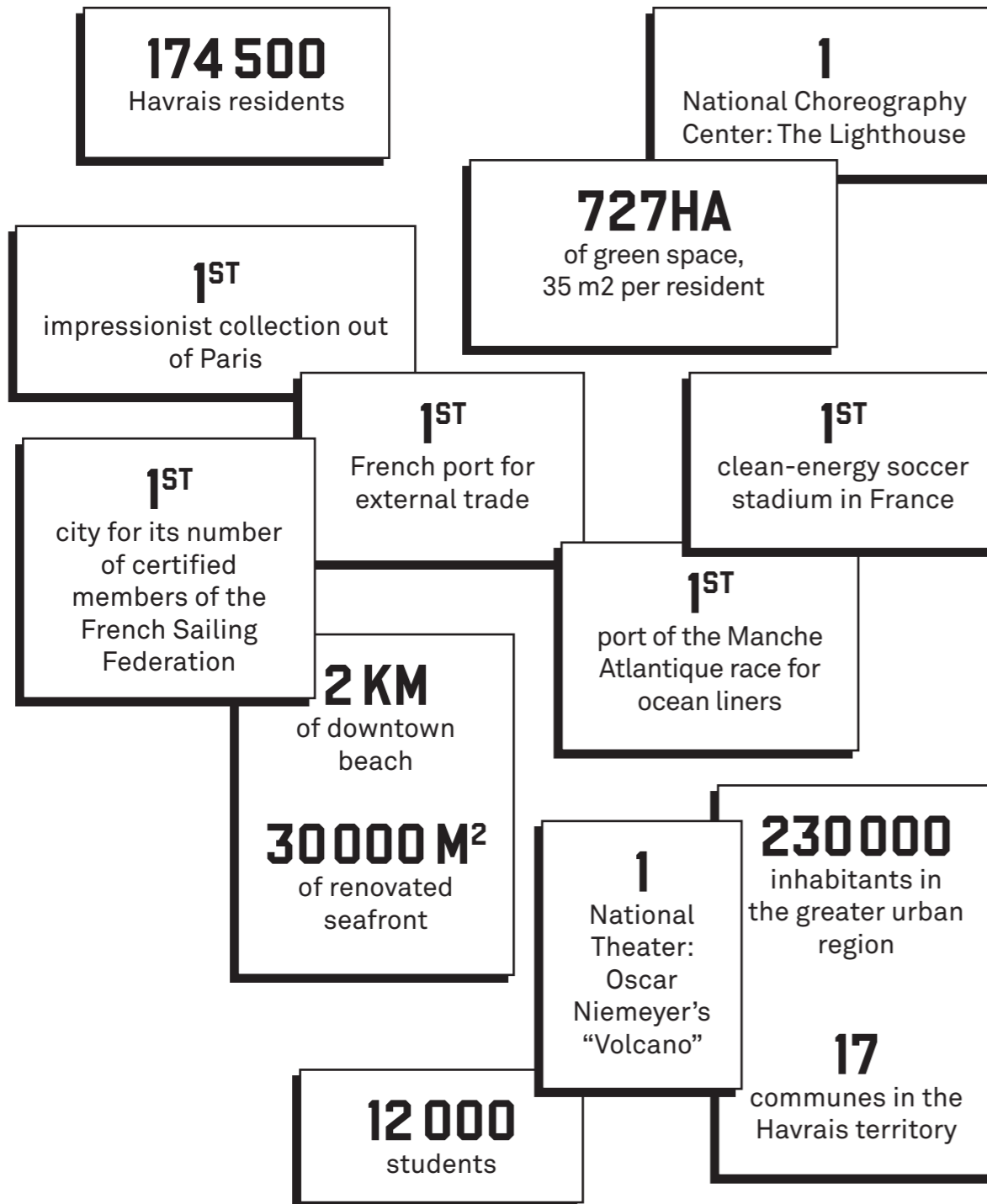
A dialogue with the inhabitants of the Aplemont neighborhood of Le Havre — located in the Upper City on the plateau, overlooking the Lower City near the Montgeon forest — seeks to imagine the future of the area surrounding the Cité des Fleurs; the plans include the adaptation of municipal equipment, the renovation of public spaces, the diversification of offered housing, and the conservation of the neighborhood's friendly ambiance.

THE OLD CITY, THE METROPOLITAN HEART OF LE HAVRE

The City of Le Havre has undertaken an extensive project of requalification of the Old City, located off the downtown area and the rapidly developing Saint Nicolas neighborhood. Its geographical position, the presence of large urban facilities (the train station, the University, the tramway, etc.), as well as the dilapidation of the housing and the degradation of public spaces make this area a priority for the City. Many residents are engaged in the consultation process set up by the City to develop and reanimate the life of this neighborhood. After 3 years of debate, more than 6 public meetings, 12 prefiguration workshops, 18 workshops for work and tours, and many other exchanges, plans for two new facilities have emerged: the rehabilitation of the former barracks of firefighter- engineers, and the construction of a new public edifice on the site of the former Danton prison.

View on bd Clémenceau
© Patrice Le Bris / OTAH

KEY FIGURES

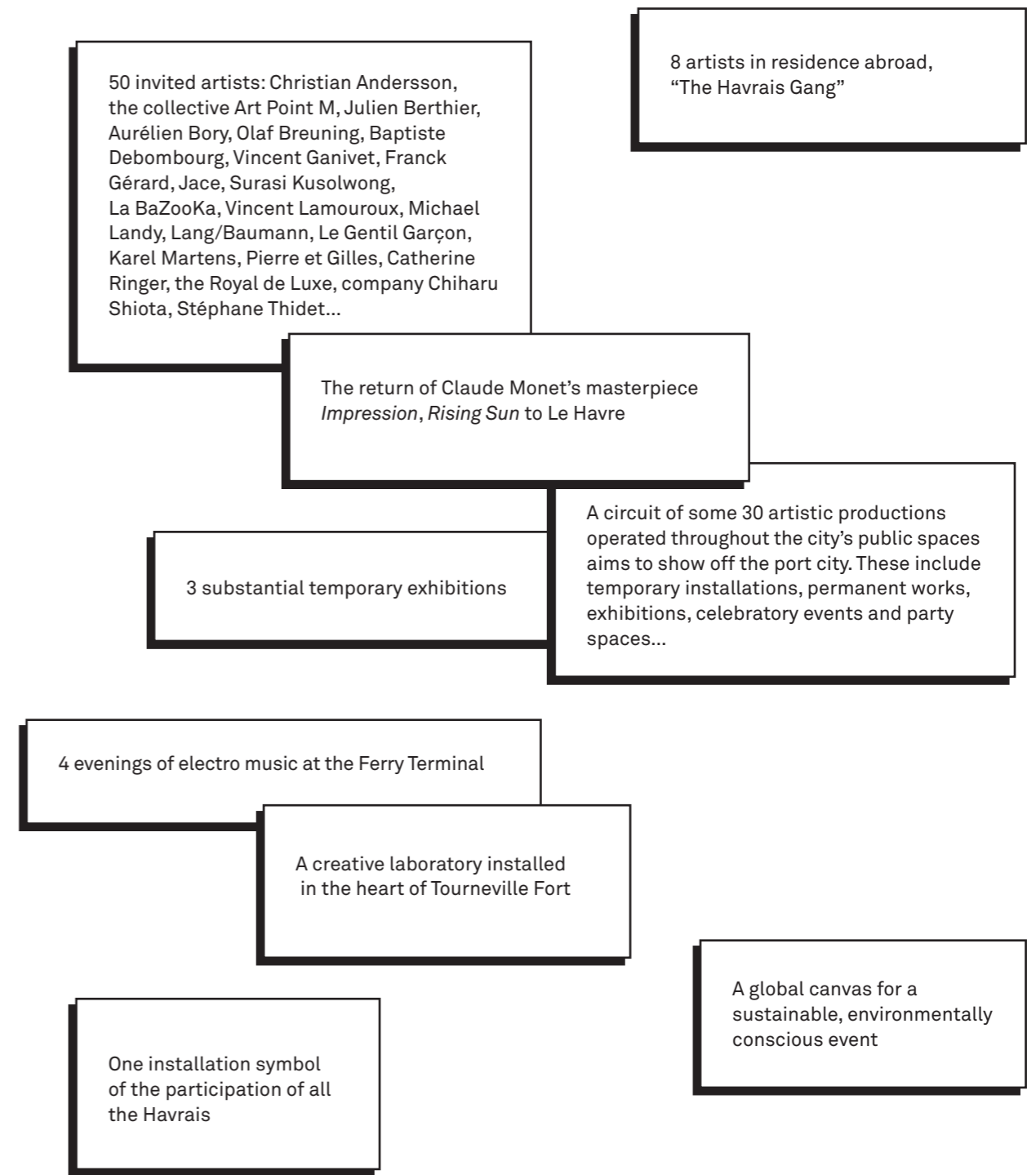


A SUMMER IN LE HAVRE 2017



Seafont
© Philippe Bréard-VDH

A SUMMER IN LE HAVRE 2017, A FEW LANDMARKS

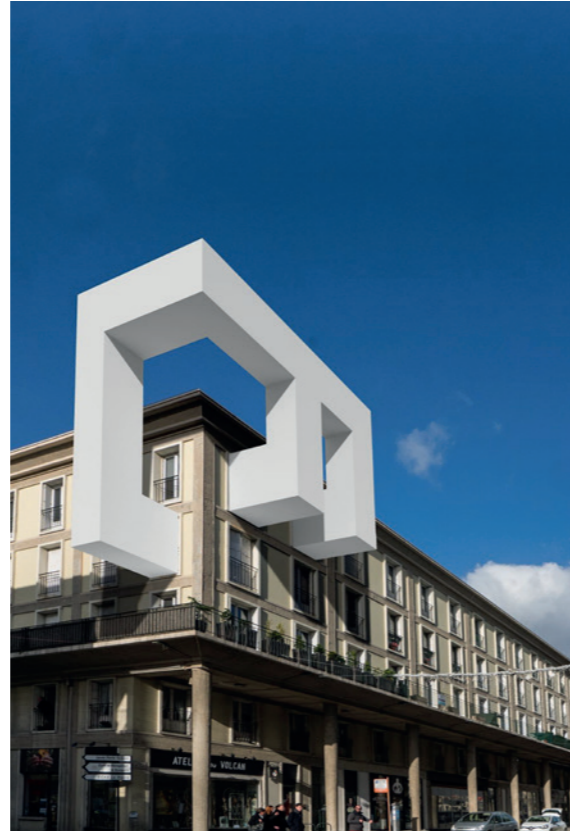


A SUMMER IN LE HAVRE 2017 ARTISTS PLAY THE CITY



On the left:
Royal de Luxe
© Serge Koutchinsky

On the top right:
Sketch of Lang/Baumann project
© Lang/Baumann



On the bottom right:
Chiharu Shiota,
"The Key in the Hand"
56th Biennale of Venice,
Venice, Italy
© Sunhi Mang/
Courtesy: Chiharu Shiota



From top to bottom:
Sketch of L'altoviseur
Julien Berthier
© Julien Berthier

Sketch of Baptiste
Debombourg project
© Baptiste Debombourg

Sketch of Vincent Ganivet project
© Vincent Ganivet/
Studio Louis et Morgan



From top to bottom:
Design for Color bars on
the beach LH'17
Karel Martens
© Karel Martens

Sketch of Stéphane
Thidet project
© Stéphane Thidet

A SUMMER IN LE HAVRE 2017 ARTISTS PLAY THE CITY

From May 27 through November 5 2017, *A Summer in Le Havre* invites curious parties to discover the city and its famed port through a series of rich, festive, multidisciplinary programming.

Renowned for his experience and his inimitable approach to culture, Jean Blaise will insure the artistic direction of the project *A Summer in Le Havre 2017*. The veritable pioneer of a new cultural approach, Jean Blaise has conceived and developed artistic events of great scope and stature, having experienced great popular success, such as the Festival des Allumées, the *Estuary* biennale of contemporary art, the Lieu Unique, the Voyage to Nantes, or even the first White Nights in Paris.

In keeping with their vision for public spaces, Jean Blaise and the associate curators have invited artists to practice and explore their own creativity, in order to reveal the beauty of Le Havre's city and port. Relying on the great riches of the city, as well as its savoir-fair and talents, *A Summer in Le Havre 2017* will outline a new relationship to the city, embodying a veritable cultural revolution in progress. This unifying project is being organized in consultation with the territory's entire community of artistic, cultural, and political players.

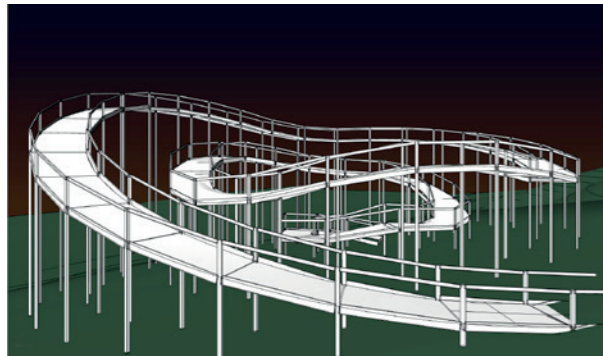


Love, Love
Julien Berthier
Credit: Private collection

A CITY BROUGHT TO LIGHT BY ARTISTS

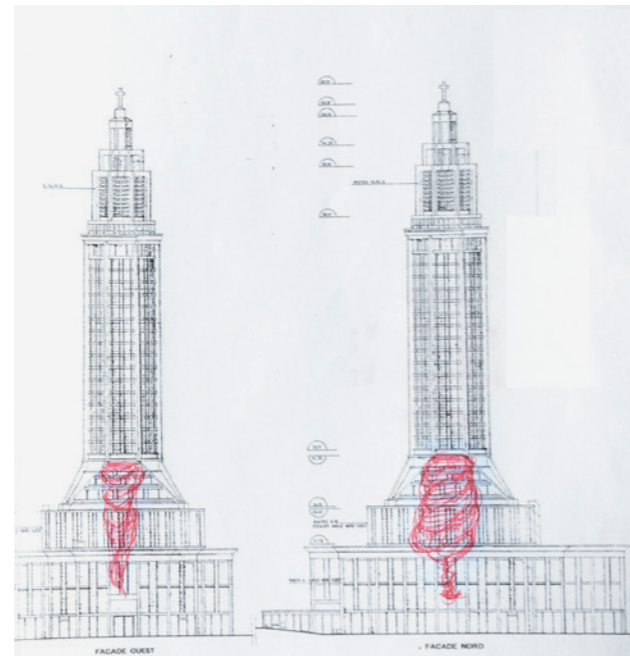
A generation of artists renowned and recognized for their interventions in public spaces has been invited to create contemporary installations, both temporary and permanent, throughout Le Havre, in order to offer new perspectives on the city and its port. Featured among them: **Chiharu Shiota, Surasi Kusolwong, Julien Berthier, Lang/Baumann, Karel Martens, Baptiste Debombourg, Olaf Breuning, Vincent Lamouroux, Jace, Vincent Ganivet, Christian Andersson, Stéphane Thidet, Le Gentil Garçon, Michael Landy, Franck Gérard, La BaZooKa...**

In 2017, the city's lesser known or emblematic locations — some of them hitherto inaccessible to the public — will be unveiled.



On top:
Sketch of Vincent Lamouroux project
© Vincent Lamouroux

At the bottom:
Sketch of Chiharu Shiota project
Spiritual Power, 2016
© Chiharu Shiota



PRESTIGIOUS EXHIBITIONS

Le MuMa

***Pierre et Gilles*, from May 27 through August 20, 2017**

The musée d'art moderne André Malraux will host an exhibition dedicated to artist-couple Pierre and Gilles, born respectively in 1950 in Roches-sur-Yon and in 1953 in Le Havre. This retrospective of 80 works from the end of the 1970s through today will allow the public to dive into their atypical artistic environment, painting a highly sophisticated portrait of an artist-duo working between photography and painting.

Le MuMa

***Impression(s) soleil*, from September 9 through October 8, 2017**

Impressionism will be honored in the heart of the city that witnessed the birth of this major art historical movement. The museum, under the auspices of the Commissioner of general conservation Annette Haudiquet, will host a landmark exhibition around Claude Monet's celebrated canvas *Impression(s) soleil*. The show will highlight the city and its famous light, a source of inspiration for the the greatest masters of Impressionist artworks, notably featuring paintings by Eugène Boudin, Raoul Dufy, Gustave Le Gray, William Turner and Félix Vallotton.

La gare maritime

***French Line*, from May 27 through October 8, 2017**

A poetic journey of discovery through Le Havre's maritime history will be proposed by the French Line association, which will present Europe's largest collection of archival material from the transatlantic sailing companies. An immersive exhibition design will be conceived by Aurélien Bory and Lucas Thébault.



Pierre et Gilles, Gavroche!
Art Gurianov 2015, photograph
Painted on canvas, 105,5 x 83,5 cm.
Private collection. Courtesy: Pierre
et Gilles and Galerie Daniel Templon,
Paris/Bruxelles.

ARTISTIC AND POPULAR FESTIVITIES

Art Point M Collective, May 27 2017

Prepared beforehand with Havrais residents, the opening vernissage, imagined by the Art Point M Collective, will be a spectacular artistic event that will mobilize the entire population and connect the Upper City and Lower City, extending from the heights of Caucriauville to the beach.

Royal de Luxe, July 6-9, 2017

July 6-9 2017 will also witness the highly anticipated return of the company Royal de Luxe and its giant marionettes, which has always captured the hearts of the Havrais and always draws many hundreds of thousands of spectators. This grand public spectacle will unfold throughout the entire city.

Closing Party, October 8 2017

The Closing Party for the event is conceived as a great public get together, organized around a symbolic artwork that will celebrate, through poetry, the anniversary of the creation of the city and its port. This interactive digital artwork, a permanent symbol of the Havrais and their celebrations, will leave an indelible trace on Le Havre that marks the city for the next 500 years.



Royal de Luxe
© Serge Koutchinsky

SPACES AND LOCATIONS OCCUPIED DURING THE EVENT

La gare maritime

The ancient ferry terminal of Le Havre, which is usually empty, will be open during the course of the presentation. During the day, the bar/restaurant will be animated by daily artistic programming. At night, the space will transform into a club: 4 festive weekends in an electro-music environment will be organized by the Art Point M collective, creators of the N.A.M.E festival.

The Fish Market

The square of this fish market in the heart of the Saint-François neighborhood will be reinvented by designers. The market's stands will be incorporated into the animation, which will take place over more than 4 months.

The Fort of Tourneville

During the season, the "Fort!" will be transformed into a creative laboratory, a site of exchange and conversation between artists, collectives of architects, and designers, all in support of the creative effervescence of the Havrais artistic scene.

The actors of the Tourneville Fort as well as those from the larger region will collaborate to convert this space in the spirit of a permanent "work in progress." Free programming, open to all, will be offered throughout the summer: workshops, concerts, picnics, electronic "naps"...

The Temple of 5,000 Vows and the Japanese Garden

Created in 1992, the Japanese garden solidifies the link between the ports of Le Havre and Osaka. Usually open by reservation only, it will be open to the public throughout the duration of the event. Echoing this, BaZooKa will propose a dynamic installation: a Zen temple floating in the Barre basin, into which visitors are invited to deposit their vows. An underwater observatory situated in the center of the temple will allow lucky visitors to discover the extraordinary aquatic creatures of Le Havre.



Fort de Tourneville
© Laurent Lachevre

THE HAVRAIS GANG**JULIETTE RICHARDS**

Author, composer,
interpreter
Great Britain
July 2015 and May – June 2016

PATRICE BALVAY

Painter, Draughtsman
Tokyo, Japan
May – June 2016

FRANÇOIS TROCQUET

Draughtsman
Detroit, United States
July – August 2016

CHRISTOPHE GUERIN

Video artist
Crossed the sea in shipping
containers toward
Guyana and Brazil
August – September 2016

DELPHINE BOESCHLIN

Graphic Designer
Brasilia Brazil
September – October 2016

SEBASTIEN JOLIVET

Sculptor
Newcastle, Australia
July – August 2016

BRAY

Musician, Rapper
European Tournament
of concerts in apartments
February – March 2017

LA BAZOOKA

Choreographers, Sculptors

THE HAVRAIS GANG

Eight Havrais creators with known talent and potential have been invited to explore new, edifying horizons, through a travel-abroad residency program: from Brasilia to Detroit, from Tokyo to Liverpool, there are many destinations that were selected to initiate a wave of artistic movement, injecting the creative global scene with an electroshock.

This project, "The Havrais Gang," was conceived as as twin to the arrival of international artists desiring to bring an external perspective to Le Havre and reveal that vision to its inhabitants and to visitors. The residency abroad project initiates the movement of artists who want to "see other places," detaching themselves from their homeland to explore new horizons.



A SUMMER IN LE HAVRE 2017

CALL OF THE SEA

THE BAPTISM OF THE MSC MERAUVIGLIA, EARLY JUNE 2017

The MSC Meraviglia, the lead ship of MSC Cruises, will be delivered on June 1, 2017. Constructed by STX Europe in the shipyards of Saint Nazaire, just like the rest of the MSC Cruises fleet, this new-generation ship will be baptized in France, in the port of Le Havre, on June 4, 2017 — and will then be placed in the Marseille harbor for its inaugural season on the Mediterranean Sea. Weighing in at 167,600 GRT and measuring 315 meters, the MSC Mervaglia is equipped with 2250 cabins and has the capacity to accommodate 5700 passengers. In keeping with traditional inauguration ceremonies, the Mayor of Le Havre and Deputy of Seine-Maritime, Edouard PHILIPPE, announced on February 1 that Le Havre will be the port-of-call for this new jewel of the MSC Cruises fleet. Bearing witness to this, the city's coat of arms figure on one of the one of the boat's welded parts. This epic event is a source of great pride for the Havrais, and will be an inextricable part of the celebrations accompanying the 500th anniversary of the city's founding.

HOST TO THE LAST STAGE OF THE TALL SHIPS RACE, AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

The Tall Ships Race, officially known as "Rendez-Vous 2017," will stop over in Le Havre for its final section from August 31 through September 3, 2017.

The race, which brings together heritage ships that number among the biggest in the world, will depart in April 2017 from Greenwich, in Great Britain, and will travel through Sinès in Portugal, Bermuda (where the race will stop at the same time as the America Cup), Boston in the United States, Quebec City (with an exceptional turnout expected for the 150th anniversary of the Federation of Canada), and finally Halifax, from where Transatlantic finale will depart, heading toward Le Havre, on July 31, 2017.

This massive event, which is free and open to the public, will take place around the Vatine, Eure and Vauban basins, where the fleet's ships will be positioned. This will allow the public to visit the ships, and to attend numerous performances and events organized to celebrate the region's maritime patrimony, such as the crew parade, concerts, and numerous firework displays. Young Havrais residents will be taught to steer a ship like apprentice sailors on board the ships, throughout the summer of 2017.

THE JACQUES VABRE TRANSATLANTIC RACE 2017 – OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Since the very first race along the historic coffee trading route between Le Havre and Carthagène, the race now known as the Jacques Vabre Transat has never again left its Havrais port-of-call. The 13th edition of the most celebrated and longest of the two-handed Transatlantic races will take up in Le Havre from October 27 through November 5, 2017, just in time for a legendary launch on the occasion of Le Havre's 500th anniversary.



Paris street against a backdrop of liner port of call
© Erik Levilly-VDH

Le Havre, nautical city
© Erik Levilly-VDH

AN AMBITIOUS GLOBAL APPROACH FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS EVENT

At this moment, it is the responsibility of every individual to act in full knowledge and respect of our society's essential concerns, whether they be social, environmental or economic. This injunction takes on particular importance for the GIP. Concerned about producing *A Summer in Le Havre 2017* as an exemplary event, in terms of its use of sustainable materials, the GIP has put in place, since the conception of the project, a production process that is both sustainable and environmentally conscious, organized around 40 actions that are structured around 4 main axes: communication, event production, visitor experience, and the environment. All parties participating in the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the city of Le Havre are therefore strongly encouraged to sign a charter that confirms the sustainable and eco-conscious commitment of *A Summer in Le Havre 2017*.

The permanent and temporary works as well as the large public celebrations that will animate the Havrais territory during the event's 4-month run include many opportunities to participate in the social and economic life of the region. The ensemble of the featured works and events as well as the arrival of tens of thousands of tourists represent, nonetheless, a significant carbon footprint that the GIP intends to keep to a minimum.

INTEGRATING A SOCIAL DIMENSION, THROUGH INSERTION AND MEDIATION

In order to participate in the occupational integration of the territory, *A Summer in Le Havre 2017* will offer various assignments to personnel in the integration sector (Concierge, Handling, Construction, Mediation, Renovation) etc. The rehabilitation project of the beach cabanas executed by the Netherlandish artist Karel Martens is, among others, to be installed by an integration engineer.

A cultural mediation imagined in accordance with the specificities of the Havrais territory will be put in place in order to accompany the public in their discovery of the programming. Particular attention will be paid to members of the public who come from far away.

PROMOTE RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOR

To reduce the carbon footprint and environmental impact of the event, organizers and audiences will be mobilized. The organizers of *A Summer in Le Havre 2017* privilege solutions that respect the environment in their production and operation, and the public is asked to behave responsibly during their visit. This event is an opportunity for the territory to confirm its commitment to sustainability by ensuring that all related initiatives respond to the objectives of the City of Le Havre's Agenda 21.



UNITING THE ACTORS AND THE INHABITANTS OF THE REGION AROUND A MEANINGFUL PROJECT

The ambition of *A Summer at Le Havre in 2017* is to mobilize and unite the various populations of the Havrais territory around unprecedented artistic and cultural programming. The cultural and economic worlds, as well as the inhabitants of the larger Havrais area are therefore invited to participate in every stage and at every level of the execution of the event: from the development of artistic projects through the promotion of the event, all the way through the reception of many thousands of visitors. The organizers of the large people's parade, which will inaugurate the celebrations at the end of May, for example, invite 300 Havrais to parade through the streets of the city.

Companies of the greater Le Havre region are asked to get involved in the production of *A Summer in Le Havre 2017*. The year 2017 will mark a rediscovery of the city of Le Havre by the general public and investors, contributing to the region's economic development and to the renewal of its image and reputation, both at home and abroad.

THE DYNAMISM OF NEIGHBORING ECONOMIC ACTORS

On the occasion of *A Summer in Le Havre 2017*, the businesses of the territory — be they of local or national scope — will commit themselves to artistic creation and the cultural and touristic development of the territory, reinforcing its status as an attractive destination.

The economic and social consequences of cultural events of great scope are considerable in the creation of a new regional dynamic, in the revitalization of the area's economic fabric and in the development of new infrastructures. *A Summer in Le Havre 2017* is the opportunity to build a new future for the city.

Big-name French businesses are already engaged in the initiative, and have committed themselves to the territory. EDF, Transdev, Total S.A. and STX France are the first to have promised their support. Numerous others will join the event in the weeks to come.

Under the leadership of CCI Seine Estuary and its President Vianney De Chalus, local companies have taken the initiative to gather around the Club 2017. To date, more than twenty have committed to this unique cultural opportunity: Auxitec Ingénierie, Caisse régionale du Crédit Agricole Normandie Seine, Jean Amoyal Architecte, CCI Seine Estuaire, Chalus Chegaray & Cie, CRAM SAS, l'efficacité énergétique, EDF, Helvetia, Lia Transdev, Lubrizol, Mazars, Fédérations des entreprises havraises, Medef Seine Estuaire, SHGT – Sucre Océane, Sidel, Sogestran, LBC Sogestrol, SPB, Syndicat des Transitaires Havrais (STH), Terminaux de Normandie, Total Plateforme Normandie, Valentine's, KPMG, SIM Emploi...

Such a strong mobilization of economic players confirms their desire to create a new image of the city of Le Havre — modern, attractive and dynamic — and to address their own development concerns throughout the territory.



Docks district
© Philippe Bréard-VDH

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Port entrance
© Philippe Bréard-VDH

ACCESSIBILITY

On foot, on bike, by boat, train or bus, the destination is very easy to reach. Parking lots allow visitors to leave their cars and utilize public transport to move around quickly and easily, getting to downtown, the beach, or any other neighborhood with Lia, the transportation line serving the greater Havrais area.

BY TRAIN

Intercity Paris Rouen Le Havre (2h15)
 TGV Lyon Rouen Le Havre (4h40) and Marseille (6h30)

BY ROAD AND HIGHWAY

A13 Paris Rouen Caen — 2h30
 A29 Amiens — 2h

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS

Le Havre is served by numerous airports:
 Le Havre/Octeville
 Deauville
 Paris Beauvais — Paris Orly — Paris Roissy

BY BOAT

Le Havre: Port for Sea-liners and River-Liners
 Portsmouth (trans-Manche line)



PRESS IMAGES



From top to bottom:
 Bassin du Commerce, Le Volcan,
 Saint Joseph church
 © Erik Levilly-VDH
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 For any use, thanks to declare the photograph
 to la SAIF

Sketch of Lang/Baumann project
 © Lang/Baumann

Royal de Luxe
 © Serge Koutchinsky

From top to bottom:
 Seafront
 © Laurent Lachèvre-VDH

Aerial view of Le Havre
 © Patrick Boulen-VDH

Sketch of Vincent Ganivet project
 © Vincent Ganivet/Louis et Morgan studio

From top to bottom:
 Le Volcan – Theatre
 and the library Oscar Niemeyer
 © Erik Levilly-VDH

Seafront
 © Philippe Bréard-VDH
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Design for Color bars on the beach LH'17
 Karel Martens
 © Karel Martens

CONTACTS

The Public Interest Group (GIP) “Le Havre 2017,” created to oversee this massive project, was founded by four initial parties: The city of Le Havre, the Greater Havrais Community, HAROPA-Le Havre Port, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Seine Estuary.

It later expanded to include the University of Le Havre, the Department of Seine-Maritime, and the Normandy Region. This grouping sends a powerful message that communicates the political will to collaborate in the development and influence of the territory.

Édouard PHILIPPE, Mayor of Le Havre and Deputy of the Seine-Maritime department, oversees the GIP “Le Havre 2017,” directed by Thomas MALGRAS. The artistic direction for all celebrations surrounding the 500th anniversary of the creation of the port and the city has been entrusted to Jean BLAISE.

The GIP has also called on the skills and services of a delegate producer: Artevia agency, created in 2009 by Alain THULEAU and Pierre GRAND and specializing in the development of cultural and societal projects.

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