



**Jardins  
de Métis**

Festival international de jardins

PRESS RELEASE

## Inauguration of the 23rd International Garden Festival of Les Jardins de Métis

**Grand-Métis, June 23, 2022.** The five new gardens of the International Garden Festival, presented at the Jardins de Métis from June 24 to October 2, are inspired by the theme "Adaptation", a reality we are facing, especially in the last two years. To live and survive, humans, like nature, must show adaptation and resilience. Twelve designers from Quebec, France and the United States invite visitors to come and reflect on this daily challenge.



Wooden fortresses encircle a few trees to protect them from human assault (**Forteresses** by Maison029: Eadeh Attarzadeh, urban planner and designer and Lorenzo Saroli Palumbo, architect from Montreal); earthenware rings change colour, as lichen does, to adapt to the conditions in which they are placed (**Lichen** by Marie-Pier Gauthier-Manes, environmental designer from Montreal and Chloé Isaac, ceramacist, and Victor Roussel, 3D artist from Paris); sunflowers planted upside down, from a ceiling of spheres, turn towards the sky to grow as they should (**Gravity Field** by Terrain Work: Theodore Hoerr, landscape architect, Kelly Watters, landscape designer and Rebecca Shen, designer from New York); eight planted hills rise to reveal what is crawling under our feet (**Les huit collines** by ONOMIAU: Noël Picaper, architect from Paris); finely cut wooden slats are assembled in the heart of an intriguing structure to question, those who will cross it, the use of the forest and the space, on the possible cohabitation between the resources of the territory and the human (**Forêt finie, espace infini?** by Antonin Boulanger-Cartier, Pierre-Olivier Demeule, Melaine Niget, architecture interns from Quebec City).

In addition to the 27 contemporary gardens presented at the Jardins de Métis, a satellite installation, made up of 156 recycled glass bottles fanned out in front of the Centre d'art de Kamouraska, captures the wind from the open sea and emits melodies reminiscent of foghorns: *Mer du vent* by Emmanuelle Loslier and Camille Zaroubi, landscape architects and musicians from Montreal. Their installation, *Miroirs acoustiques*, created in 2021, is again presented on the site of the International Garden Festival.

### **New gardens of the International Garden Festival**

**FORTERESSES** by Maison029 [Eadeh Attarzadeh, Lorenzo Saroli Palumbo], Montréal (Québec) Canada

The romantic notion of believing that forests spared from all human contact and interference will thrive has unfortunately been disproven. As long as humanity persists on its present course, it has become unrealistic to expect our forests to defend themselves.

*Forteresses* is a symbolic intervention within the forest, proposing an aggressive method to protect our flora from its greatest predator: ourselves. The geometry of each modular defensive system adapts to the size, type and age of each tree. *Forteresses* is meant to be appreciated for the beauty of its geometries in addition to encouraging visitors to question the impact they have on their environment and reminding them that our flora is often unable to protect itself.

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Graduates of McGill University, Eadeh Attarzadeh is an urban planner and urban designer at Stantec and Lorenzo Saroli Palumbo is an architect at Atelier d'Architecture Saroli Palumbo inc.

Together, they form a multidisciplinary and complementary duo, Maison029, with the objective of offering unique characteristics to each project they realize. To do so, they seek to embody and amplify the qualities of a project's context through the playful exploration of form, materiality, construction technique and light. Whether it's for architectural projects, urban design, furniture or graphics - it's all in-house.

**LICHEN** by Marie-Pier Gauthier-Manes, Chloé Isaac, Victor Roussel, Montréal (Québec) Canada / Paris, France

The lichen is a perceptive, malleable and mutable organism. It metamorphoses in contact with the topography, humidity and ambient temperature. Like its namesake, *Lichen* is sensitive to disturbances in its environment and is therefore a valuable indicator of environmental change. Composed of small, delicate elements, it is nonetheless a cohesive and resistant structure that serves to prepare the ground for other plant species. As we wander between its agglomerations, we observe, otherwise invisible, elements reveal themselves in colourful patterns.

Inspired by terracotta pots, real archetypes in gardens, this installation is composed of 1,200 hand-made earthenware rings that are fired in an outdoor kiln right here at the Jardins de Métis. The drainage and water retention capabilities of this material allow for both a more constant irrigation of the soil and a longer retention of moisture. This environment allows plants that are particularly sensitive to temperature variations and drought to grow peacefully. Its thermochromic treatment changes its appearance according to the temperature to reveal different colours throughout the summer season.

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Marie-Pier Gauthier-Manes is a product and space designer, Chloé Isaac is a ceramacist and graphic designer and Victor Roussel is a 3D artist. All three studied environmental design at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

It is during their studies that they developed their friendship and discovered the pleasure of creating together. They are attracted to design proposals that put the properties of materials at the centre as well as artisanal and eco-responsible approaches.

Despite their similar educational backgrounds, they are now creators with very different profiles. Marie-Pier is the founder of Studio Moodswings. Chloé and Victor are now based in Paris and work on their own.

**GRAVITY FIELD** by TERRAIN WORK [Theodore Hoerr, Rebecca Shen, Kelly Watters], New York, États-Unis  
Plants are extraordinarily adaptive. They can thrive in some of the harshest environments on earth by responding to a myriad of stimuli – sun, water, temperature, soil, and gravity – to sustain life. Plants are also essential to human existence, providing sustenance, ecosystem services, and carbon sequestration.

While they play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change that threaten our existence as a species, they too are also vulnerable and must adapt quickly to a rapidly changing climate. *Gravity Field* demonstrates the robust adaptation of plants in even extremely strenuous conditions.

The sunflowers are grown upside-down but will bend up as they grow towards the sun, defying gravity. Visitors can visit the installation numerous times to experience how adaptable plants are to their circumstances: phototropically, gravitropically, and heliotropically. While the future is uncertain, *Gravity Field* spotlights the powerful resilience of nature and sees optimism in the ability of plants, and all organisms, to adapt and thrive.

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Theodore Hoerr is a landscape architect, Founding Principal of Terrain Work, Kelly Watters is a landscape designer, Associate of Terrain Work and Rebecca Shen is a designer intern. Terrain Work is an international landscape architecture, urban design and public art studio in New York City that is known for its creativity and design innovation.

Terrain Work's landscapes and urban strategies consider how landscape's innate ability to change create new emergent forms and experiences that synthesize culture, nature, and the built environment. They approach each project with a curiosity and collaborative spirit born out of the belief that landscapes should perform as both cultural provocateur and ecological system.

**LES HUIT COLLINES** by ONOMIAU [Noël Picaper], Levallois-Perret, France  
Conceived as evolving structures, those eight hills imagine biological spatialities. Through inanimate and organic materials, they create life effects. A hilly landscape then appears, capable of offering various experiences to humans as well as to non-humans (birds in particular). Serving as a seating area, a micro-garden, a contemplative space and an ecological reservoir, this project offers visitors a multitude of spatial sequences to practice, seating, hiding places and amphitheatre and more.

The intention, behind this assembly of surfaces, is to reveal the richness of a whole environment, catalyzing other forms of interactions for various living beings. Dreamlike and supporting functions, this work influences the climate by softening the summer heat with its shades and its flora. *Les huit collines* thus elaborate a landscape charged with meaning that never ceases to evolve both by its composition and by the cycles of life that it shelters.

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Born in Bonn, Germany, Noël Picaper lives and works in Paris. Since September 2021, he has been teaching at the School of Architecture in Clermont-Ferrand. On the border between architecture, art and biology, Noël Picaper's creations paint a picture of a world made of playful and dreamlike landscapes, where humans and their natural environment cohabit in new ways. After working for Junya Ishigami in

Japan, in 2019 he created Onomiau, an architecture and design collective interested in experimental spaces and architectural fictions. Onomiau stands for "office for nomadic architecture".

**FORÊT FINIE, ESPACE INFINI?** by Antonin Boulanger Cartier, Pierre-Olivier Demeule, Melaine Niget, Québec (Québec) Canada

From a distance, *Forêt finie, espace infini?*, takes on the appearance of a pile of sawn wood that a carpenter might have placed there while waiting for his next project. This defined form covered with a plastic sheeting waits in the summer heat. Rooted in the middle of a path crossing the boreal forest, the installation however obstructs the passage. Without being able to go around it, is it possible to cross it, to face it seems inevitable.

By approaching, a section of the tarpaulin is unhooked, and you are invited to slip into it. Inside, a structure made of finely assembled wooden slats reveals a path modulated by a play of solids and voids. What are all these cleverly arranged slats and why do they seek to reach the infinite? Aren't they constrained by this tarpaulin that can be seen from the outside? Looking up at the sky, a brief glance at the tall trees suggests a final thought: if the space we build emanates from a world of finite resources and therefore cannot be infinite, could this skillfully sculpted forest able to be?

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Antonin Boulanger Cartier is an architectural intern at Bourgeois Lechasseur Architectes. He is also a candidate for the master's degree in architectural sciences within the Habiter le Nord québécois partnership at Université Laval.

Melaine Niget is an urban designer and architectural intern at Groupe A / Annexe U. The versatility of his training in architecture and urban design has led him to become involved in several research groups at the École d'architecture of the Université Laval.

Pierre-Olivier Demeule holds a master's degree in architecture, a master's degree in science and is an architectural intern at ABCP architecture. In recent years, his interest in informal and vernacular built heritage has led him to work on various projects in collaboration with indigenous populations.

### **About the International Garden Festival**

The International Garden Festival is the most important contemporary garden festival in North America. Since its inception in 2000, some 200 gardens have been presented in situ at Grand-Métis and in extramural locations in Canada and abroad. The Festival takes place on a site adjacent to the historic gardens, allowing for a dialogue between history and modernity, between conservation, tradition and innovation. Each year, the event features some twenty creations by more than sixty architects, landscape architects and designers from various disciplines. The event is presented with the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and Canadian Heritage.

### **About Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens**

A National Historic Site of Canada and a Quebec heritage site, the Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens has been a must-see for visitors to the Gaspé and Lower St. Lawrence regions for 60 years. Cultural space, tourist destination and iconic landscape, the Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens offers visitors a soothing and innovative experience of connection to nature. Located at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Mitis rivers, they were designed by Elsie Reford from 1926 to 1958. It is one of the most renowned gardens in North America and is considered one of the 150 great gardens in the world. The year 2022 marks the 150th anniversary of its creator's birth.

Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens will be open daily from 8:30 a.m. until Sunday, October 2, 2022. Admission is free for children 13 years and under. Visit <https://jardinsdemetis.com/> for full program details.

Hydro-Québec has been a partner of Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens since 1999.

On the first Sunday of the month, Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens participates in the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications' measure of free admission to museums for Quebec residents.

- 30 -

Source :

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