

## **HISTORICAL MONUMENT**

Inspired by the impressionist and enthusiastic gardener Claude Monet, the renowned French actress Madame Thébault decided to create a garden, planting the first tree in 1903. Claude Monet determined the general mood of the garden, which has been carefully preserved to this day.

A garden unfurls on the cliffs of the Côte d'Albâtre, one of the wonders of Normandy. Deep inside the garden lies the old 'Roxelana' villa, named after Madame Thébault's favourite heroine. This historical figure eclipsed the power of her husband, Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, through her courage and devotion in love. Roxelana's incredible life has been the basis of numerous works of fiction, films and plays.

The actress loved her collection of orchids, which personified the concubines of Sultan Suleiman and helped her get into character when playing her heroine Roxelana. It was this role that won her great success and public acclaim. Today, the orchids of Les Jardins d'Étretat symbolise the creativity of the garden's founder.

The main terrace of Les Jardins d'Étretat sits on the renowned cliff d'Amont. In this unique place, Claude Monet spent many hours on his canvases – a series of paintings and sketches based on 'Les Falaises d'Étretat'. Artists the world over come here for inspiration: nature, garden, architecture and art enthusiasts, admirers of Claude Monet's work and successors to the master painter. Visitors to Normandy will find their impassioned thoughts, moods and feelings echoed in its eternal beauty as they take in the views and myriad colours of the cliffs of Étretat and the surrounding landscape.

## **THE FUTURE STARTS TODAY**

Society's prevailing architectural stance is an attempt to return to a more optimistic state of mind and restore belief in a better, more ecological future where technology and cutting-edge scientific achievements serve humanity and nature. The 21<sup>st</sup> century's neo-futurism (the name given to the leading artistic movement of our time) differs greatly from previous styles through its evolutionary approach and the significance it gives to technology development in various fields, including architecture and art.

This avant-garde movement of the late 20<sup>th</sup>–early 21<sup>st</sup> century was the result of urbanist architect declarations that human comfort in a space tailored to their lives should take precedence over any other considerations. This movement is based on principles of expediency, minimalism, environmental friendliness, ethics and technological effectiveness. Its leading representatives are the architects Rem Koolhaas, Zaha Hadid, Santiago Calatrava and the designer Vito di Bari.

The principles of neo-futurism have rapidly spread to the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, machine building, the fashion industry, cinema and even literature. The burgeoning popularity of this movement has been spurred on by technological processes and innovations, which have created a host of opportunities to make bold neo-futuristic ideas a reality. In garden and park design, these ideas spread much more slowly than in other areas due to the fragility of plants, which make it difficult to create trimmed sculptural compositions. They offer a new material for architectural and spatial planning in the gardens of the future.

In 2007, the designer and architect Vito di Bari published the '*The Neo-Futuristic City Manifesto*', which was included in Milan's application to host Expo 2015. Di Bari defined his neo-futuristic vision as "the cross-pollination of art, cutting-edge technologies and ethical values, combined to create a pervasively higher quality of life".

## **Les Jardins d'Étretat is the world's first experimental object open to the public, depicting a unified concept of neo-futuristic ideas**

In 2015, the garden was restored and the historical compositions recreated. During the work, Les Jardins d'Étretat gained new artistic creations and expanded its borders. The value of this project lies in the unification of historical elements of the Villa Roxelana garden and modern ideas – the result is a fully-fledged architectural object ripe with neo-futuristic vision.

Les Jardins d'Étretat is an experimental artistic laboratory which primarily seeks to identify new plant care technology and new forms of trimmed compositions for spatial planning. Large-scale trimmed plants provide the material for the garden's neo-futuristic compositions and images: the eternal organism of the ocean with its own dynamic, spirals and whirlpools; troubled waves; and the cliffs and arches of Normandy's alabaster coast. Les Jardins d'Étretat not only draw attention to the biodiversity and natural beauty of the ecosystem, but also demonstrate new architectural methods in the art of landscaping.

Les Jardins d'Étretat also form a modern art museum under the open sky of Normandy. The museum has main and temporary exhibitions. The main modern sculpture exhibition forms an indivisible architectural base, without which, the meaning, drama, general mood and artistic integrity would be lost. This exhibition emphasises the striking individuality of Les Jardins d'Étretat in the world of landscaping art.

The temporary modern sculpture exhibitions coincide with the opening of the annual seasons at Les Jardins d'Étretat. The aim of these exhibitions is to develop the social, natural and artistic environment, assist in creativity, strengthen ethical values and preserve the historical and cultural heritage.

This experiment in garden and park architecture makes it one of the most innovative types of contemporary art. The extraordinary talent of the man behind Les Jardins d'Étretat, the architect and landscape designer Alexandre Grivko, is shown vividly in the innovative lines and shapes of the spatial composition, flowing artistically into infinity, without beginning or end. In the balance of abstract combinations of trimmed plants and their shapes, the creator demonstrates the use of neo-futuristic principles in his work. His ideas have already found devotees and followers.

Grivko believes that the landscaped space around people forms part of their self-image. Thus, his primary goal is working on a precise shape without excess graphics or colour spectrums. The premise for all works by the Les Jardins d'Étretat creator is determined by the position of the person in space: their feelings and aspirations for harmony and absolute visual comfort. The philosophical leitmotif constantly emphasised by Grivko's work is the fleeting nature of time, which must be felt, accepted, understood and guided by the past.

Modern planting and plant care technology have allowed the creator to come up with trimmed compositions in large sculptural groups as material for the illustration of living forms. They have their own "breathing and movement", resembling stone with their heaviness, plasticine with their softness and elasticity, and rubber with their flexibility and weightlessness.

Bionic architecture at Les Jardins d'Étretat is represented by the vivid texture of evergreen, trimmed plant compositions, bringing the Normandy landscapes to life. This unique artistic material forms a new organised space, enchanting us with its precision and weightlessness and conjuring up feelings of timelessness, calm and personal cosmos.

The historical, artistic and architectural significance of Les Jardins d'Étretat lies in the innovative use of individual principles of neo-futurism, combining garden compositions in a large-scale neo-

futuristic object. Thus, the art of the future remains in step with time, reflecting the contemporary stage in the cultural development of humanity.

### **JARDIN AVATAR**

The garden is located at the entrance to Les Jardins d'Étretat. In ancient Sanskrit, an Avatar is the incarnation of the deity who came down to Earth and the keeper of the universe entwined in all that is. Jardin Avatar takes us beyond the bounds of reality into magic surrealism. Even trees play their own music here as trimmed plants with unusual forms beckon you into a fairy tale where each visitor chooses their own path to their Avatar.

### **CLOCKWORK FOREST**

The art object 'Clockwork Forest' is the first chapter in an untold tale by the British company Greyworld, which creates interactive art in public spaces. Turn the key and a mechanical melody will accompany you on your journey through the garden.

Clockwork Forest, 2011.  
Greyworld Group, London, UK.  
Metal, music box.

### **SHELL**

This sculpture was made of plastic film especially for Les Jardins d'Étretat. By St. Petersburg artist Alyona Kogan, the installation turns a clifftop into a seabed, instantly changing our viewing angle and the scale of the surrounding reality.

Shell, 2016.  
Alyona Kogan, St. Petersburg, Russia.  
Plastic film.

### **PLATTER**

The enormous columns of an old oak were used as material by the German sculptor Thomas Rösler. Tool marks on the wood tell the story of how the work was completed.

'Platter' (*Schale*), 2014.  
Thomas Rösler, 1968, Friedrichshafen, Germany.  
Eight bound wooden beams.

### **JARDIN ÉMOTIONS**

The prototype for Jardin Émotions was the first French oyster farm owned by Queen Marie-Antoinette and located at the bottom of Les Jardins d'Étretat in the waters of the English Channel. The image of the ocean floor was the principal idea behind the garden's creation. The trimmed plants echo the landscapes of the underwater world and the oysters' habitat. The exhibition also features sculptures of facial emotions, expressing a whole range of feelings and symbolising the various "moods" of the ocean and its inhabitants.

### **RAINDROPS**

Made from a mixture of polyester resin and aluminium powder, Samuel Salcedo's sculptures are a spectrum of living emotions. The artist has caught and captured a reflection of the most unpredictable and unexpected emotions such as the expectation of a kiss, anger displayed in pursed lips, weariness or satisfaction, pain or pleasure. How each sculpture is interpreted depends primarily on the viewer's eye.

Raindrops, 2016.  
Samuel Salcedo, 1975, Barcelona, Spain.

Mixture of polyester resin and aluminium powder.

### **JARDIN IMPRESSIONS**

Jardin Impressions is the heart of Les Jardins d'Étretat. The garden boasts views of the historical ocean panorama and the cliffs of Étretat. These views inspired the great artists of the past and Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot, Eugène Boudin, Eugène Delacroix, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet and Vasily Polenov all came here to paint. The garden's trimmed plant compositions embody the rise and fall of the tide in the English Channel, increasing the effect of immersion in water.

### **CLAUDE MONET**

The 'Claude Monet' sculpture is part of "The Tree Hugger Project". Made especially for Les Jardins d'Étretat, it recalls the landscapes and views of the cliffs of Étretat, painted by the founder of impressionism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

'Claude Monet', 2016.

Agnieszka Gradzik, 1979, Białogard, Poland.

Wiktor Szostalo, 1952, Pasvalys, Lithuania.

Natural materials, tree twigs.

### **LOUNGE STONES**

Imagine wandering deep into a forest and pressing your entire body against it. This is the viewer's impression when looking at the soft, round 'lounge stones'.

'Lounge Stones' (Loungesteine), 2014, oak.

Thomas Rösler, 1968, Friedrichshafen, Germany.

### **JARDIN D'AVAL**

Jardin d'Aval is a meeting and relaxation space for visitors to the garden, inspired by Alice in Wonderland. The garden is magically surrounded by fairy-tale plants and numerous arches of yews, reproducing the famous cliff of Aval in Étretat. Jardin d'Aval is renowned for its abundant collection of orchids which increase the surrealist effect with their unusual colours and shapes.

### **THE TREE HUGGER PROJECT**

This ecological project by Wiktor Szostalo began as a humorous attempt to illustrate '100 ways to hug a tree and not look stupid', using sculptures from fallen twigs and scraps of wood. The artist's 'wicker people' hugged trees in seven countries around the world. The 'Tree Hugger Project' took part in the UN Climate Change Summit, and gained a special ecological subtext: how long will the inhabitants of the Earth be able to feel unity with nature?

'The Tree Hugger Project', 2007.

Agnieszka Gradzik, 1979, Białogard, Poland.

Wiktor Szostalo, 1952, Pasvalys, Lithuania.

Natural materials, tree twigs.

### **TABLE WITH TWO BENCHES**

Every piece in this ten-metre furniture set was made from a solid piece of old oak by German sculptor Thomas Rösler.

Table with two Benches (*Tisch mit zwei Bänken*), 2010.

Thomas Rösler, 1968, Friedrichshafen, Germany.

Oak.

## **JARDIN ZEN**

Jardin Zen embodies the harmony between humans and nature. Only plants with white flowers are displayed here, giving viewers a sense of the virginal purity of human beings in nature. The garden contains a sound installation with a view to inspiring good and revealing new ways of perceiving the surrounding world through art.

## **UNTIL THE WORD IS GONE**

This installation by Russian artist Sergei Katran features terracotta sculptures that mimic the form of a sound wave from the word 'art' pronounced in different languages. The author turns the word into a visible, palpable object, giving it a new transcription in modern art. In the artist's sound installation 'Neo-Babel dialogue', the word 'art' pronounced by both linguist Willie Melnikov and artist Sergei Katran, is heard in 125 languages.

Until the Word is Gone, 2016.

Sergei Katran, 1970, Nikopol, Ukraine.

Terracotta sculpture, sound installation.

## **JARDIN LA MANCHE**

This garden consists of large-scale labyrinths of trimmed plants, embodying the troubled waves of the ocean. The silvery leaves in the composition conjure up the sea foam that crashes over the cliffs of Étretat during storms. Jardin La Manche is renowned for its ability to inspire vivid emotions among visitors. When they fall into the maelstrom of the elements, people want to escape from it and "get out alive".

## **JARDIN D'AMONT**

Jardin d'Amont towers majestically over Les Jardins d'Étretat as plants transform into cliffs and blend in with the coastline on the horizon. Depicting the outline of the cliffs of Normandy's alabaster coast, they amaze us with their mathematical precision and synchronisation. The Jardin d'Amont terrace is the highest point in Les Jardins d'Étretat, offering enchanting bird's eye views.

Les Jardins d'Étretat have a unique botanical feature. Through the four seasons of the year, they retain their outward appearance and remain evergreen. Bioscience has allowed the garden to learn to withstand the prevailing winds and the constant salty breeze, preserving the sculptural form of the fragile trimmed plants.