



PHARES

A monumental interactive artwork by Milène Guermont on Place de la Concorde, Paris (October 2015 - April 2016)

PHARES - a dialogue with our heritage

PHARES is a “beacon of headlights” (“phare de phares” in French), that was located during six months next to the Concorde Obelisk, the oldest monument in Paris, in the place where, in 1843, the first public test of electric lighting happened in the world.

This monumental work is a 29 m tall very fine aluminium lattice in the shape of a pyramid onto which LED lights are fixed. Its gold colour intensifies until it becomes the hue of the pyramidion in order to highlight the original symbolism of the Obelisk: the passage from Earth to Sky.

PHARES - forward looking

Light but resistant, monumental but energy-efficient, PHARES illustrates the latest in conservation of energy and resources, possible nowadays thanks to excellence, engagement and creativity.

Fabricated in less than three months in Normandy, PHARES is only 2% of the Obelisk’s weight. Its lamps consume 70% less energy than the previous generation. It is protected by a patented thorny lemon tree hedge. Due to its intrinsic qualities, PHARES aims to encourage the energy transition. It has been given a seal of distinction by the international jury of the UNESCO “2015 International Year of Light”, “Paris for the Climate” and “COP21”.

PHARES SUPPORTS & DISTINCTIONS:



PHARES on Place de la Concorde, Paris by day and night © Milène Guermont / ADAGP

PHARES - first dates

- July 2015, the President of France expresses his support of PHARES.
- October, PHARES is installed on Place de la Concorde within one week.
- October 22, the first wave of light of PHARES illuminates the Concorde.
- During the FIAC and the COP21, PHARES lights up to the rhythms of the heartbeats of passers-by thanks to a built-in sensor.
- February 2016, the Eiffel Tower, the Montparnasse Tower and PHARES illuminate at the same rhythm of one heartbeat.
- June, PHARES leaves Paris for new adventures.
- October 3, PHARES is the only artwork shown at UNESCO Headquarters for the final report of the International Year of Light.
- June 2017, the trip of PHARES receives the patronage of the CNF of UNESCO.

PHARES COMPANIES:

Sizing: 3D-Structures; topographical surveys: Art Graphique et Patrimoine; gilding: Asima; Parisian concrete base: Batimaud; video: T. Baronnet; electronics: Durango; timelapse: Devisubox; Parisian electrical connecting: Evesa; lighting: J-J Ezrati; crane: Foselev; transport: Guerard; web: Linware; electricity: Masselin; plans: Métallerie De L'Authion; metal: Normeca; technical controls: Qualiconsult; packaging: Raja; scaffolding: Service Matériel Normand; lemon tree hedge: Sinnoveg; headlights: Valeo.



YOU ARE PHARES

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Milène Guermont in front of PHARES on Place de la Concorde, Paris © Olivier Thomas

THE ARTIST

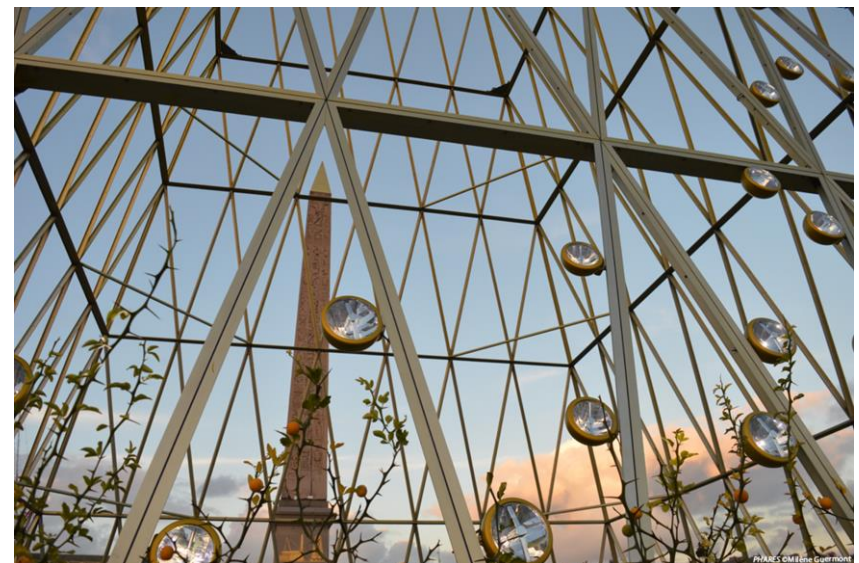
Milène Guermont was born in 1981. Thanks to her double education as an artist (Ensad) and as an engineer (Ensiacet; Brown University; Mines) she combines innovation with the power of poetic imagination.

Several of her inventions are patented and her research on concrete won the OSEO Emergences prize from the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research of France in 2009.

Her sculptures in Polysensual Concrete react (through sound, light and vibration) according to your magnetic field when you touch them, such as *MINI AGUA* (the artwork of the French Pavilion of the International Exhibition ASTANA 2017 whose overall theme is "Energy of the Future").

Milène has had solo exhibitions during Art Basel Miami, and at the town hall of the 8th arr. in Paris, Caja Galeria in Mexico, National Archives of France, Fine Arts Museum of Caen, Mineralogy Museum Mines ParisTech, for ex.

Her works, which weigh up to several tons, belong to private collections and are integrated into buildings and landscapes. Some are permanently installed on classified areas such as *CAUSSE* in Paris and *INSTANTS* at Utah Beach (commissioned for the 70th anniversary of the American allies' landing).



PHARES on Place de la Concorde, Paris © Milène Guermont / ADAGP