



Alliance (2009). Hayes Place, Cardiff (Wales)

Alliance connects the place with the people. While retaining a strong link to the site's origins, its multiple facets allow it to be in harmony with the present, and open to the future. The sculpture is composed of two elements that seem to balance in the air: a circular form of vast dimensions planted in the ground at a slight angle, and a column, a monumental landmark like a huge «gnomon». The overall structure is deliberately lightweight, open and transparent, so as not to clutter an already dense urban area. Instead, it serves to unify and integrate the diverse architectural elements that surround it and the area's urban complexity. A device within the circle envelops a visible liquid that moves continuously with the ebb and flow of the tide. This perpetual movement, a symbolic link, located as it is between the new city centre and the gateway leading to the city's economic past, acts here like an organic clock, creating a poetic connection with the rhythm of nature, cosmic time and the origins of the place.

Jean-Bernard Métais won the International competition organised by Safle (Cardiff Public Art Agency) in 2007. Short listed: Tony Cragg, Kennedy, Roxy Paine, Lulu Quinn, Jean-Bernard Métais

Jean-Bernard Métais' proposal was selected by the Jury in Spring 2008).

Jean-Bernard Métais, Alliance (2009). Hayes Place, Cardiff (Wales)

Design by Jean-Bernard Métais - Collaboration with Herve-Armand Bechy (concept) and Peter Finch (texts)

Materials : Stainless steel – Enamelled metal – Polycarbonate – Liquid fluids – Light.

Dimensions: Height 25m, Diameter 17m

The project was completed in 2009.



Jean-Bernard Métais, Alliance (2009). Hayes Place. Cardiff (Wales)

Title: Alliance

Date: 2009 (completion)

Location: Hayes Place, Cardiff (Wales)

Materials: Stainless steel – Enamelled metal – Polycarbonate – Liquid fluids – Light.

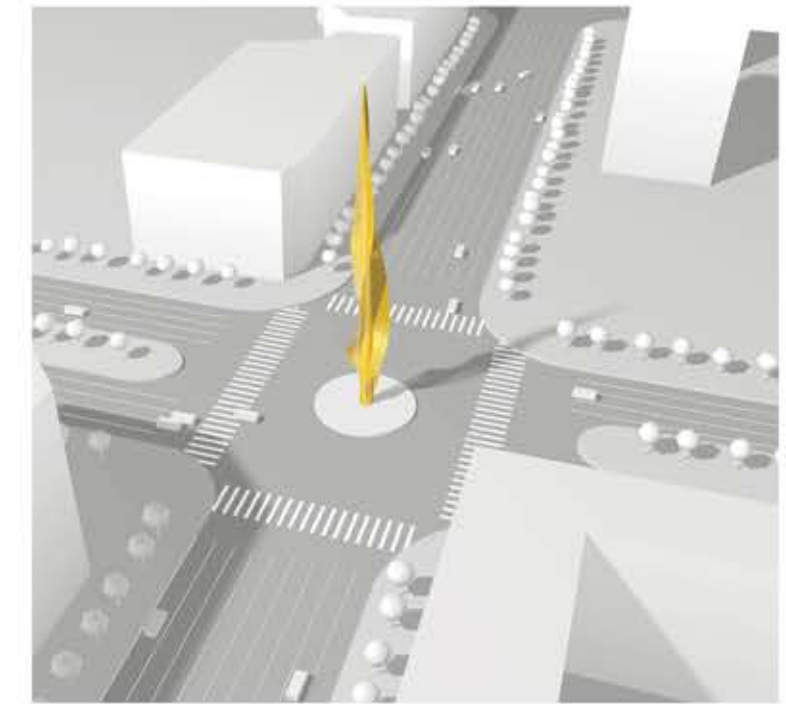
Dimensions: Height 25m, Diameter 17m

Commissioner : SAFLE (City of Cardiff)

Cost: 750 000 €



Jean-Bernard Métais, Phoenix-Oriflamme (2014 - completion). Tianjin (China)



On a former salt marsh on the edge of the ocean now stands part of China's fifth-largest iTech city, built in less than 30 years. To preserve something of the memory of the site, Jean-Bernard Métais has let thread-like aquatic forms such as seaweed inspire suggestions of marine life. Composed of fin-shapes attached to a mast 68 metres high, the sculpture stands out boldly against this new cityscape. Most strikingly, this is not a static work: in perpetual movement, it interacts with external forces like the wind. The fins are activated by a system of electromagnets which simultaneously attract and repel each other. The work is lit up at night by dynamos that store its dynamic energy.

Completed in Décembre, 2014.



Jean-Bernard Métais, Phoenix-Oriflamme (2014). Tianjin (China)
 Title: Phoenix-Oriflamme
 Date: 2014 (completion)
 Location: Tianjin (China)
 Material: Stainless steel, Carbon Fiber, enameled paint, dynamo + Light
 Dimensions: 68 m
 Commissioner : Municipality of TADA (Tianjin Region)
 Cost: 2 400 000 €



Placed precisely at the former location of the city's belfry (an ancient 14th century edifice that collapsed in 1840), Métais' work is a 45-meter high arrow that marks the spot, regenerating an emblematic link to local history. The belfry, a lookout tower characteristic of northern French cities in the Middle Ages, was a meeting point where diverse crowds would gather daily to conduct business, debate rules and laws, and celebrate events. It was above all a neutral, open forum where people could come to share and discuss news.

Métais designed a light yet stark structure: a giant needle that points to the sky. Aside from its formal function as a monumental landmark, the work also acts upon the square like a "rumor". The structure is filled with thousands of whispering voices, with words of local significance, secrets shared by people of the city and its surroundings. Whether assembled verbatim, at random, or cleverly composed into a surrealist litany, this sea of words draws us to it like a visual magnet. But if you approach and press your ear against the column, you can hear hundreds of different voices telling of time and elsewhere, speaking the words of here and now.



Jean-Bernard Métais, Litany (2007). Place d'Armes, Valenciennes (France)

Title: Litany

Date: 2007 (completion)

Location: Place d'Armes, City of Valenciennes (France)

Material: Stainless steel + Light

Dimensions: 47 m

Commissioner : Municipality of Valenciennes (France)

Cost: 800 000 €



The site is known as the "Silk Dragon" and the work, commissioned by site proprietor and contemporary art patron Michel Ji, has its roots in this allusion. Jean-Bernard Métais has come up with a mirror-finish stainless steel vortex that seems to aspirate the deformed reflection of passers-by into the sculpture's spiral movement, imbuing the "dragon" with the mysteriously symbolic, sometimes disturbing power that fuels the collective imagination.

Jean-Bernard Métais, Vortex (2014). Jurong (Nanjing). China.



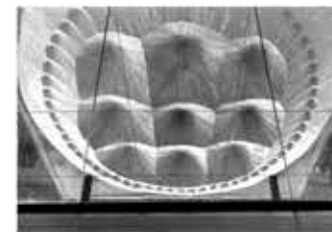
Jean-Bernard Métais, Vortex (2014). Jurong (Nanjing). China.
Title: Vortex
Date: 2014 (completion)
Location: Jurong (Nanjing)
Material: Mirror-finish - Stainless steel.
Dimensions: 9 m (H) - 13 m (L).
Commissioner : Michel Ji (private commissioner)
Cost: 600 000 €



Jean-Bernard Métais, Allotted Time-Eclipse I (temporary installation 1999-2002). Jardin des Plantes, Paris (France)

This "work in sand" came out of years of research and development Métais began in 1989-1990 at the Fondation Cartier. Installed in the central pathway of the Paris Museum of Natural History for the total eclipse on August 11, 1999, "Allotted Time-Eclipse" is a gigantic box made of glass, metal and mirrors. It houses diverse cycles of random sand flow -more than 40 tons of sand in all. Fascinated since childhood by the cosmic cycles that obstruct the sun in the daytime, Métais has traveled the globe -and still does -to observe them in person. His work is a "timecatcher" -an "eclipse-catcher". This experimental sand vessel allows different amounts and types of sand to flow in, over time. The evocative forms it creates -surprising, sensual, and in a perpetual state of renewal have attracted and delighted millions of visitors.

Glass - Metal -Mirror - Sand - 8 m x 7 m



Jean-Bernard Métais, Temps Imparti 2/ Solstice (Assigned Time/Solstice) , Le Mans (France)
 Title: Temps Imparti 2/ Solstice (Assigned Time/Solstice)
 Date: 2009 (completion)
 Location: Le Mans (France)
 Material: Stainless Steel, Glass, Mirror, Sand, Electronic + Light
 Dimensions: 8 x 8 x 7 meters
 Commissioner : Ministry of Culture (France) + City of Le Mans and City of Paris
 Cost: 400 000 €