

The Lover's Fountain

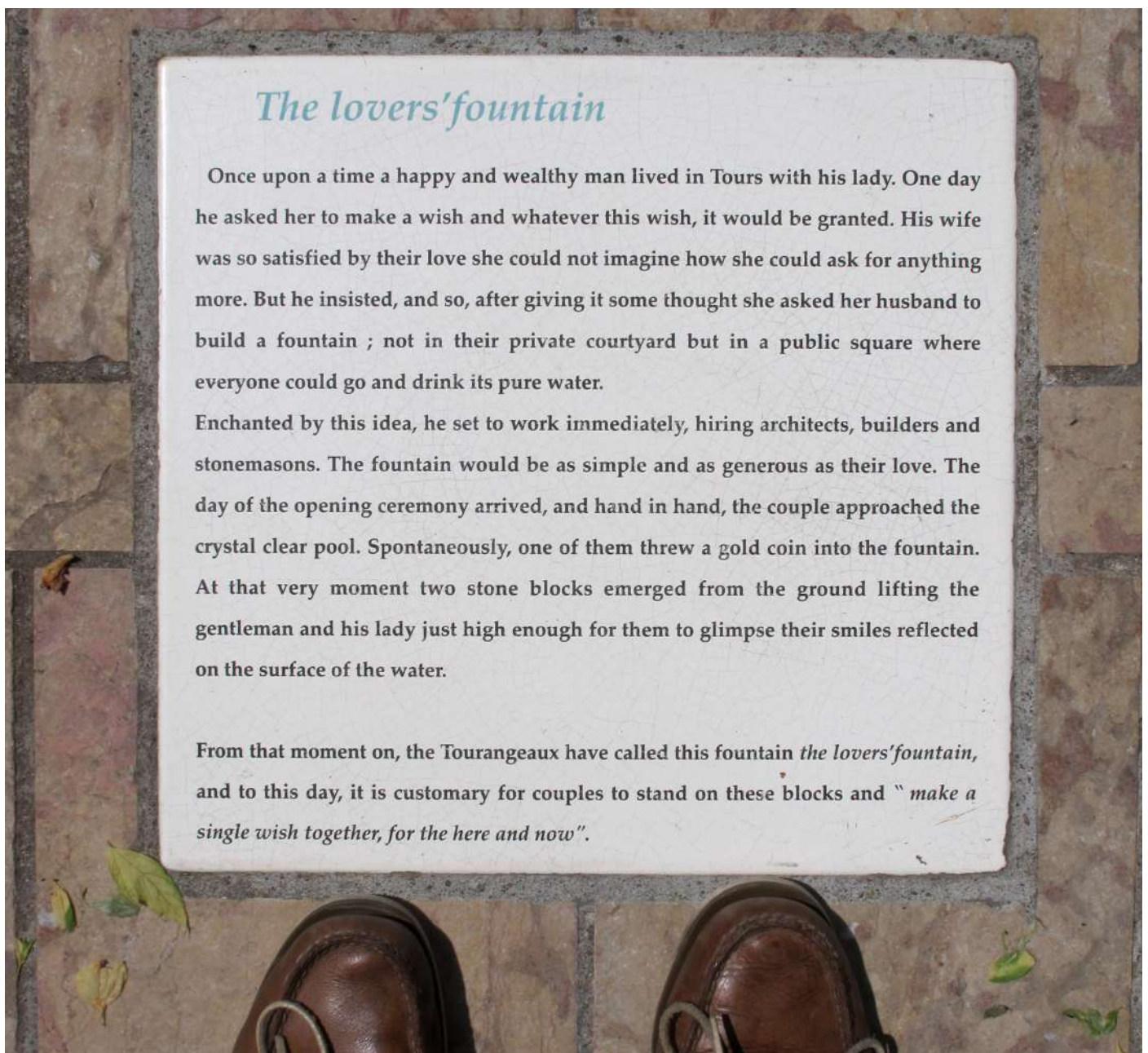
Public Commission
Eternal Network - Artistic Engineering
Place Beaune-Semblançay, City of Tours, France. 2006

The Beaune-Semblançay square is a reconstituted public space, a combination of architectural components that includes remains dating from the Renaissance and other added elements. The artist has created a story based on the birth of the fountain that occupies the square's central space. A sculpture to the side of it takes the form of two cushions that act as a pair of plinths or pedestals fixed to the ground. The sculpture prompts passersby to engage with it by expressing themselves: they are invited to do this in pairs. The work then enters a new phase, this time written in the present tense by the inhabitants themselves.



La Fontaine des Amoureux

Texte-légende imprimé sur plaque en lave émaillée située sur le sol pavé à proximité de la fontaine



The lovers' fountain

Once upon a time a happy and wealthy man lived in Tours with his lady. One day he asked her to make a wish and whatever this wish, it would be granted. His wife was so satisfied by their love she could not imagine how she could ask for anything more. But he insisted, and so, after giving it some thought she asked her husband to build a fountain ; not in their private courtyard but in a public square where everyone could go and drink its pure water.

Enchanted by this idea, he set to work immediately, hiring architects, builders and stonemasons. The fountain would be as simple and as generous as their love. The day of the opening ceremony arrived, and hand in hand, the couple approached the crystal clear pool. Spontaneously, one of them threw a gold coin into the fountain. At that very moment two stone blocks emerged from the ground lifting the gentleman and his lady just high enough for them to glimpse their smiles reflected on the surface of the water.

From that moment on, the Tourangeaux have called this fountain *the lovers' fountain*, and to this day, it is customary for couples to stand on these blocks and " *make a single wish together, for the here and now*".