

# *Clouds are the Roots of our Earth*



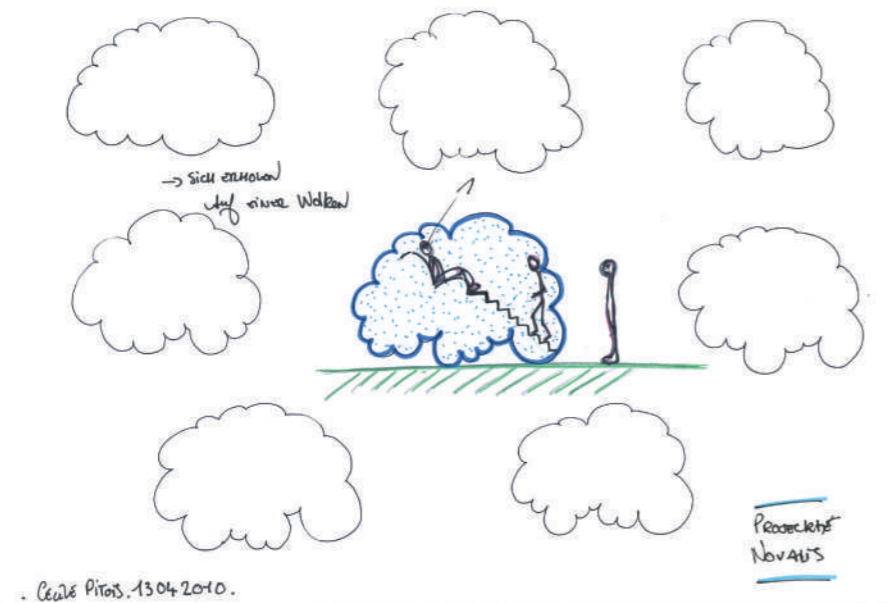
## THE PROJECT

Cécile Pitois has designed a sculpture between earth and sky, connecting our deepest being with its spiritual aspirations. This work takes the form of a cloud, symbolising Novalis'\* constantly changing thought process.

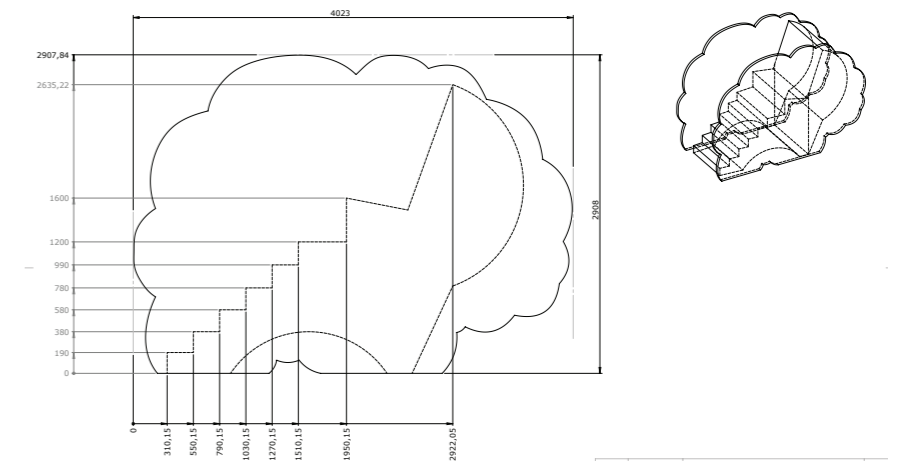
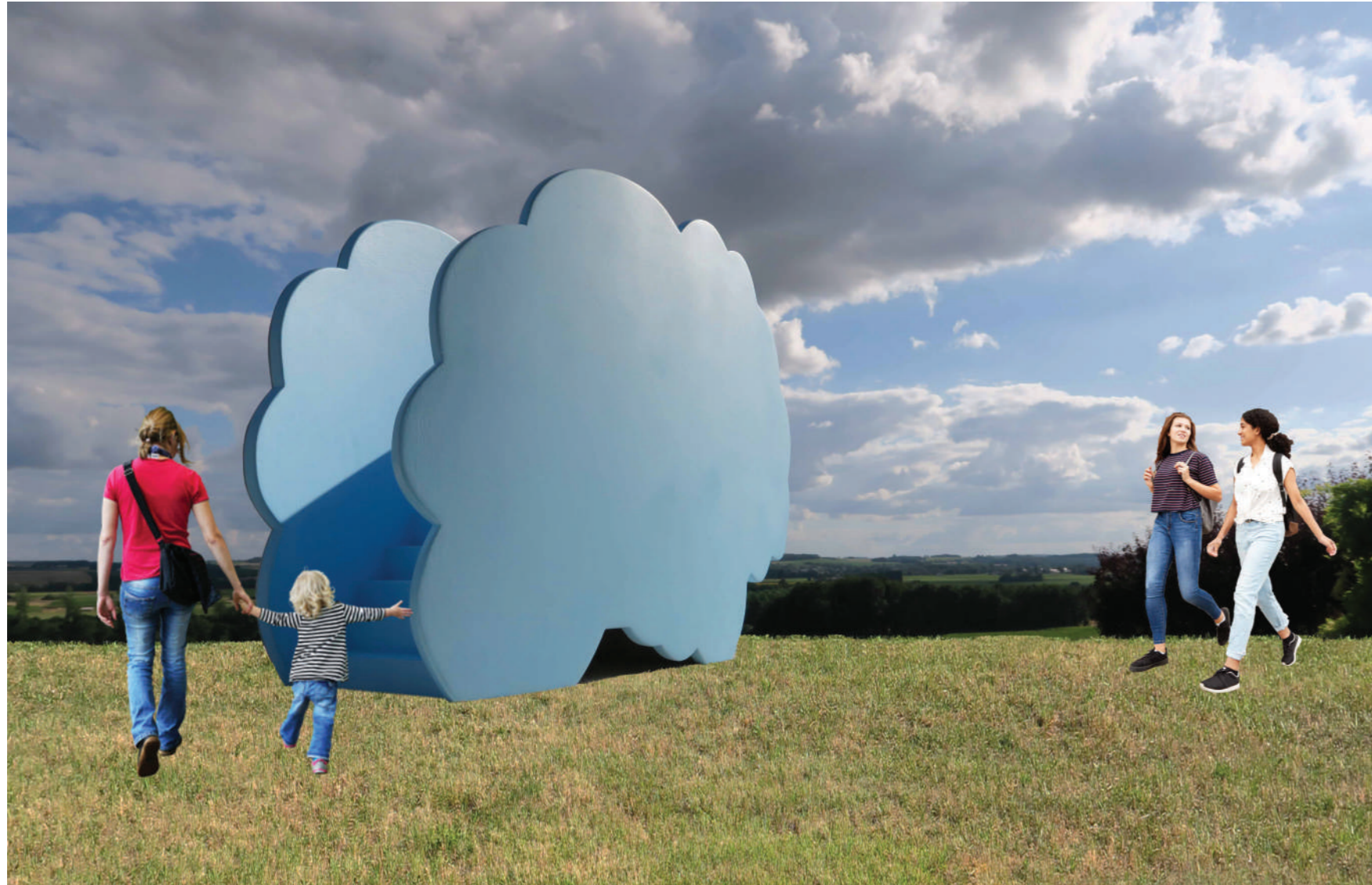
A built-in audio system plays recordings of extracts from Novalis' *Fragments*. Read by people of different ages and backgrounds, the chosen quotes focus essentially on the connections between human nature and Nature itself.

Visitors can listen to the voices or to silence, allowing their minds to wander as they watch the clouds scudding by.

\* Novalis, XVIII<sup>e</sup>-century German philosopher



# CLOUDS ARE THE ROOTS OF OUR EARTH



*En chaque mouvement dans la nature se fonde le principe d'une mobilité perpétuelle.*

*Each movement in nature finds grounded within it the principle of perpetual mobility.*

*Souhaits et désirs sont des ailes. Il est des désirs et des souhaits qui sont si peu en conformité avec les conditions de notre vie terrestre, que nous pouvons sans hésitation en tirer la certitude d'une autre existence où, sur un élément qui les portera, ces ailes auront un battement puissant de vol immense, et des îles où descendre et se poser.*

*Wishes and desires are wings. There are desires and wishes that bear so little conformity with the conditions of our terrestrial life that we can, without a moment's hesitation, draw from this the certitude of another existence where, on an element that would carry them, these wings would have the powerful beat of an immense flight and islands on which to land.*

*Nous vivons à proprement parler dans un animal, comme des parasites. La constitution de cet animal détermine la nôtre, et vice versa. Il y a peut-être une grande concordance entre les rapports de conditionnement des constituants atmosphériques et les rapports de conditionnement de ces mêmes constituants dans le corps organique.*

*We live, strictly speaking, in an animal, like parasites. This animal's constitution determines our own and vice-versa. There is, perhaps, a great consistency between the conditioning relationships of the atmospheric constituents and the conditioning relationships of these same constituents within an organic body.*

*La vie est une expression de force, par conséquent un produit de facteurs opposés.*

*Life is an expression of force, henceforth a product of opposing factors.*

## ORIGIN

In 2009, Cécile Pitois obtained a grant from the Centre-Val de Loire council in the framework of the decentralised international cooperation programme to carry out a study for artistic projects in public space in Saxe-Anhalt (Germany). In partnership, the *Kunststiftung des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt* had also allocated additional funding to the project.

## HISTORY

*Les nuages sont les racines de notre Terre* was conceived during a residency in Novalis' childhood home in Oberwiederstedt, which is now a centre for research and interaction on his work.

*"I got to know an old villager who invited me to listen to his male choir. Among other things, they sang hymns written for miners by Novalis. This led me to the idea of giving a contemporary voice to Novalis' thought by recording people reading his work aloud."*

The project took shape around two events: the encounter with the choir, and a visit to a local mine with former mining engineers.



Choir of Oberwiederstedt



House -Stiftung Novalis



Minors



A mines visit with an engineer

*"Based on these encounters, I thought about building a cloud observatory, part sculpture, part monument, where people can sit and watch the clouds go by as they listen to Fragments by Novalis in which he expresses his thoughts about Nature".*



Novalis Stiftung, Oberwiederstedt



Novalis



## ENVIRONMENT

Ideally, the work is designed to be set up and discovered in an open environment such as a park or natural area. The installation makes it possible to position the two facets of the cloud – one blue, the other with a mirror finish – so that the viewer's interpretation of the work and the landscape retains a poetic dimension. In the framework of a themed installation (e.g. an environment forum), another type of situation can be envisaged.

## OBJECTIVE

The aim is to share a structure, that of a cloud, which connects people to the issues raised by Novalis two centuries ago focusing on the way we relate to Nature. His thought resonates with our current preoccupations about what we now call ecology, and more broadly with environmental issues.

## DESTINATIONS

From the beginning the cloud was designed as a travelling artwork, appearing in and disappearing from the places it visits. By extension, the project is intended to travel abroad, with versions in the languages of the host countries. In each new destination, the plan is to make recordings of Novalis' *Fragments* with local residents of all ages.



## THE ARTIST

Cécile Pitois investigates the relationship between people and the spaces that surround them. This approach is materialised through various techniques and media.

Since the 1990s, through her many works created in France, her studies for the city of New York, a series of projects in Saxony-Anhalt, three works in social housing estates in Brussels and the recent creation of a monumental work for the Balzac district in Vitry-sur-Seine, Cécile Pitois has been investigating the potential of the city and of public space.

# BIOGRAPHIE

## CÉCILE PITOIS

Cécile Pitois est née en 1968.  
Elle vit et travaille à Tours.  
[www.cecilepitois.com](http://www.cecilepitois.com)

### COMMANDES PUBLIQUES ET PRIVÉES

- 2017 *La Danseuse de Lumière et ses Arc's*  
Commande 1% Culturel, Quartier Balzac, Vitry-sur-Seine
- 2014 «(++-)-»  
Œuvre Permanente, Domaine Yon Figeac, St Emilion
- 2012 *Les P'tites Sœurs de l'Atomium*  
Commande 101%, SLRB, Laeken, Bruxelles, Belgique
- Intuition(s)*  
Œuvre Permanente, Banque Populaire, Tours
- 2009 *Socles à partager...*  
Espace Public, Capitale Européenne de la Culture, Linz, Autriche
- 2007 *Réseau(x)*  
Œuvre Permanente, Entreprise Facedim, Châtellerauld
- 2006 *La Fontaine des Amoureux*  
Commande de la Ville, Place Beaune-Semblancay, Tours
- Signatures*  
Œuvre Permanente, Entreprise G & F, Saint-Pierre-des-Corps
- 2005 *À mon seul désir*  
Commande, Château du Rivau, Lémeré  
Fondation de France, Fondation Bernardaud, Amis du Château
- 2003 *Intuition(s)*  
Commande Publique, Lycée Agricole, Fondettes
- 2000 *Petits instants de la vie quotidienne...*  
Commande de la Ville, Collection du Parc, St Cyr-sur-Loire

### EXPOSITIONS PERSONNELLES

- 2018 *4 Singing' Corner's / Lfp, Pondichery, Inde*  
*Sculptures à Souhait / Eternal Gallery, Tours*
- 2008 *A piece of the puzzle / Mixar, Orléans en lien avec White Office, Tours*
- 2007 *inhale-exhale from A to C / Fiaf, Crossing the line, New York*  
Chorégraphes invités: Kota Yamakazi, Myriam Gourfink et Daniel Larrieu
- 2005 *inhale-exhale from A to C / C.C.C, Project Room, Tours*  
Chorégraphe invitée: Myriam Gourfink  
*Poussières et partitions / Galerie de l'ancien collège, Châtellerauld*
- 2002 *Intuition(s) / Galerie Yves Hoffmann, Paris*  
*Territoire(s) / Chapelle Saint Jacques, St Gaudens. Édition catalogue*
- 1999 *Un temps pour tous / La Box, Bourges. Édition catalogue*  
*Vernissage, 1H30 / École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Tours*

### EXPOSITIONS COLLECTIVES (sélection)

- 2008 *Seven-Sept-Sieben, Représentation Sachsen-Anhalt, Bruxelles, Belgique*
- 2006 *Artistes-entreprises, C.C.C., Tours*  
*Artistes-entreprises, Revue de projets #1, Chambre de commerce, Tours*
- 2005 *Atelier vitrail Debitus: Perspectives Lumineuses, Candes-St Martin*
- 2003 *Galerie Duchamp, A comme Anatomie, Yvetot*
- 2002 *Groupe Laura, Eternal Network, Conservatoire National de Tours*
- 2001 *Spacex Gallery, East of Eden, Exeter, Angleterre*
- 1999 *Parc Saint-Léger, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Séjour 1999, Pougues-les-Eaux*  
Édition catalogue entretien avec Emmanuelle Chérel  
*Centre de Création Contemporaine, La vitrine, Tours*
- 1997 *Artothèque de l'École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts du Mans, Le Mans*  
*ICA Gallery, April Session, Londres, Angleterre*  
*Crow Gallery, Tewkesbury, Angleterre*
- 1996 *Parlement Européen, Bruxelles, Belgique*  
*Whitechapel Gallery, Open, Londres, Angleterre*



# ESPACE PUBLIC - PROJETS ET RÉALISATIONS DE CÉCILE PITOIS



LES P'TITES SŒURS DE L'ATOMIUM, LAEKEN, BRUXELLES



LES P'TITES SŒURS DE L'ATOMIUM, LAEKEN, BRUXELLES



REQUIEM POUR UNE ÉTOILE, LAEKEN, BRUXELLES



LE REFUGE DES RÊVES, LAEKEN, BRUXELLES



LA FONTAINE DES AMOUREUX, TOURS



LA DANSEUSE DE LUMIÈRE ET SES ARC'S, VITRY-SUR-SEINE



LA DANSEUSE DE LUMIÈRE ET SES ARC'S, VITRY-SUR-SEINE



LA FONTAINE DES AMOUREUX, TOURS



L'ÂNE QUI ÉCOUTE, HALLE - PROJET



7 MINUTES OF PEACE, GROUND ZÉRO, NEW-YORK

# L'INTENTION PUBLIQUE

This is a collaborative organisation specialising in the support and production of artistic, cultural and community projects in public space.

With the help of artists and professionals working in the arts and other domains, it works to create connections between residents, local authorities and people involved in promoting community life. It was founded in 2013. It also strives to open culture up to regional planning, social issues, and questions relating to how people live together. To achieve this, art is considered as a lever for cooperation and reflection.

*L'Intention Publique* is a platform for projects and skills that makes contextual artistic proposals and has resources in engineering and production. It stands at the intersection between artistic creation and support for artistic projects, and many of its projects involve cultural urbanism and help to activate regional initiatives.

It also sets up performing arts programmes in line with the development of cultural dissemination areas.

In 2016, *l'Intention Publique* initiated a two-year experiment with a view to setting up a programme entitled *Déménager l'Art !* by 2019, with the aim of developing initiatives in the field of the plastic and visual arts concerning the relationship between art and regional development.

- Engaging in a close relationship with regions and the people who live there.
- Creating an independent mobile tool making it possible to bring artistic, educational and material content to local areas.
- To design and mount exhibitions whose production methods are inspired by the performing arts and open-air performance art.
- To support artists in the production of projects in public space that take regions and their populations into account.
- To equip regions with projects connected to the plastic and visual arts.

*For more information: [www.demenagerlart.fr](http://www.demenagerlart.fr)*

## Mathieu LOUIS

*Project coordination and production*

Mathieu Louis first studied geography and specialised in regional cultural planning, and his career led to an involvement in community education and street theatre. He has also constructed and organised cultural projects (seasons, arts programmes, etc.)

On the initiative of *l'Intention Publique*, an organisation working on artistic, cultural and community cooperation in public space, he coordinates and produces its projects.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[www.intentionpublique.fr](http://www.intentionpublique.fr)

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