



LE DRAGON DE CALAIS

by

François Delaroziere & La Machine Company

A PRODUCTION FROM 01 TO 03 NOVEMBER 2019

LA COMPAGNIE DU DRAGON

A cultural and touristic organisation

OPENING 17 DECEMBER 2019



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Long Ma, Calais 2016 — ©Jordi Bover

INTERVENING in the PUBLIC SPACE

by François Delaroziere, Art Director of La Machine

Intervening in the public space involves grappling with the architecture and history of a place, the social markers of a territory, its future. Calais has always been a frontier town, crossed by thousands of people - travellers, seafarers, migrants, tourists - their horizon set on the sea, promising not only hope but also the unknown. In the light of its past and its present, more than any other city Calais necessarily raises the question of the relevance of our intervention.

To our eyes, culture constitutes a formidable instrument of individual and collective emancipation. Indeed, inclusive access to culture can contribute to revealing skills, to nourishing esteem of oneself and of one's city. The productions staged by La Machine take place in the public space; they are free, open to all and seek to transform the inhabitants' view of their own town or city. They are anchored in the reality and life of every inhabitant.

Set in the everyday environment of those whose paths cross with theirs, these living sculptures transcend and transform our perception of space. As a consequence, this form of living spectacle integrates architecture with theatrical style. The theatre we engage in is street theatre and also action in the street. The scenes are designed to be played out in the places used by the citizens on a daily basis. In short, just where they are not expected. It is in this contrast that the power of the action lies. We seek surprise, astonishment on the part of non-captive spectators who become a street-corner audience. We address more than a theatre public, we address a street public. This art generates an emotion in the public space which unites us and promotes interaction.

François Delaroziere

INTEGRATING ART into the URBAN LANDSCAPE

by Natacha Bouchart, Mayor of Calais



Natacha Bouchart

Mayor of Calais

Président of
Grand Calais Terres & Mers

Vice Président of Hauts-de-
France, regional council

Ten years ago, Calais launched on a massive programme of urban transformation. In the spirit of its proud industrial heritage and its lace-making tradition, Calais has now added a new chapter to its history with an exciting, new, modern identity. To achieve this, my daily endeavour has been to bring together the entire population in order to build an attractive city, offering an outstanding quality of life. This has been reflected in the development of numerous projects, such as the construction of eco-districts and amenities, with the emphasis on architectural excellence. Foremost in my mind is the complete revitalisation of the Sea Front, which will be the new face of Calais as a modern and attractive coastal resort. Today, this urban regeneration project is now being enhanced by the creations and work of François Delaroziere, Art Director of

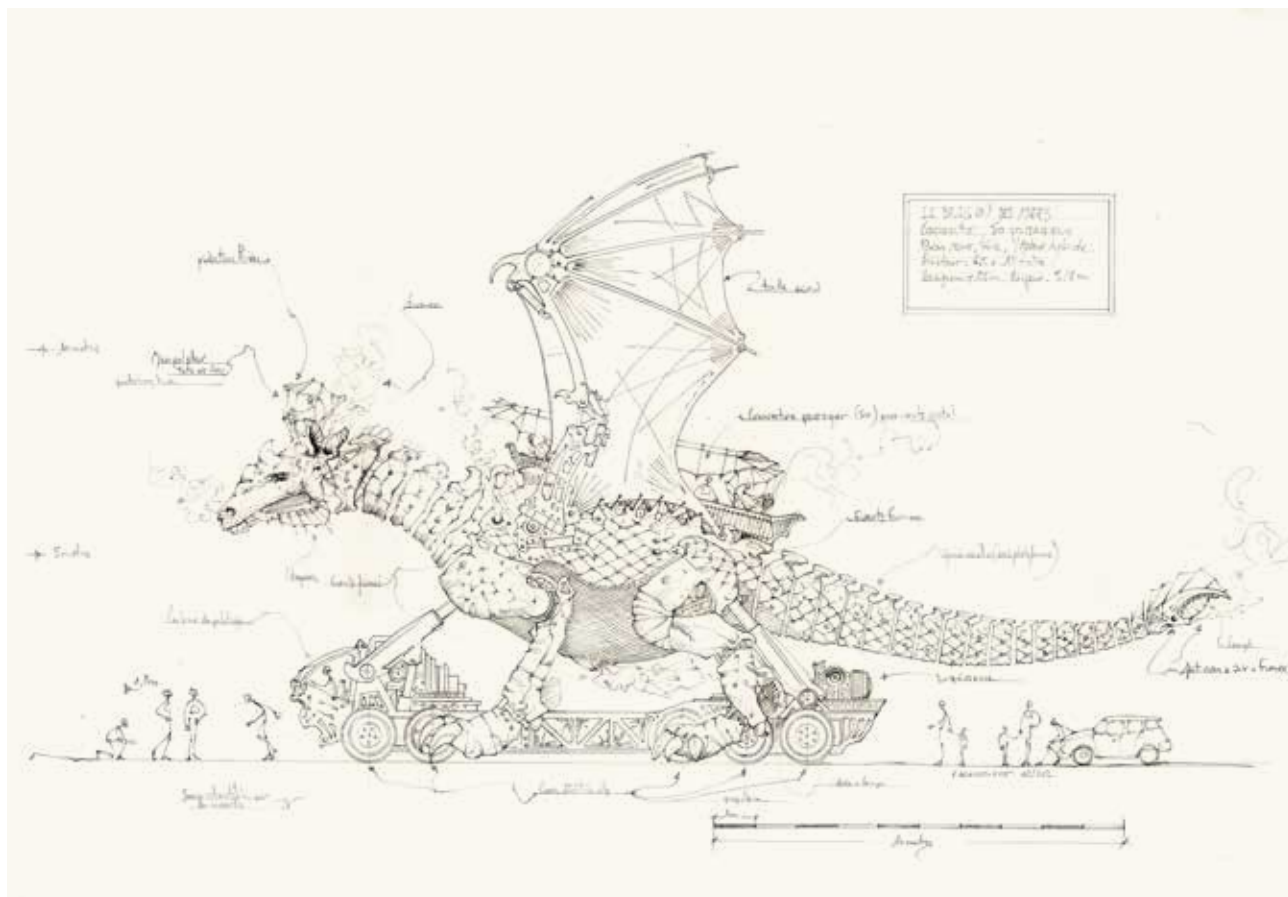
La Machine Company, which are the consequence of a meeting between François and myself on the occasion of his company's spectacular display of 'Long Ma Jing Shen', the Dragon-Horse, through the streets of Calais in June 2016. Like many Calaisiens, I marvelled at the sight of this monumental machine touring our city. I also know that François Delaroziere holds a particular affection for Calais. Indeed, over the years, he has often done us the honour of coming here to present his past creations and spectacles. So, in the light of all this, a rather hare-brained thought came to me: how could we integrate art, such as François Delaroziere's, into our urban landscape? Thanks to his genius, I have been able to initiate the rejuvenation of the public spaces of Calais with the help of his incredible machines. He proposed a world first

with his imaginary realm of machines, consisting of Le Dragon de Calais, giant Monitor Lizards and Iguanas. In response to his proposals and designs, I embarked on this amazing adventure with enormous enthusiasm, an adventure, which is about to come to fruition. For the past three years, I have dedicated much of my energy to the realisation of this project, which is unique in France. I have spent much time in fact-finding meetings in Nantes at François Delarozier's 'Machines of the Isle' project and also in many Steering Committee meetings to identify funding sources etc. It has been an exhilarating experience for me and I now have the pleasure of revealing the Inaugural Event, the spectacular celebrations, to welcome to Calais the first and most impressive of these machines, Le Dragon de Calais. On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, November, 2019, Calais will greet Le Dragon de Calais in full celebratory mode with its Inaugural Weekend.

As the year draws to an end, he will be taking up residence at La Cité provisoire overlooking the sea, close to Calais Plage. La Compagnie du Dragon is the organisation, which will be responsible in the future for the deployment and maintenance of our machines, as they arrive over the coming years. However, Le Dragon de Calais is much more than an urban regeneration project, it is also a fantastic means for boosting the city's attractiveness. Its unique appeal will act as a magnet for tourists as the 'go-to' holiday destination of the Opal Coast and the wider region. The anticipated economic benefits, the increased tourism, the publicity and media spinoffs will earmark Calais as an ambitious, motivated city with a prosperous future. I must thank here all our partners, who have made this remarkable adventure possible, in particular the State and the Regional Council of Les Hauts-de-France.

The dream has finally become a reality. The Calais of the future is being written before our eyes, symbolised by our Dragon!

Natacha Bouchart



Le DRAGON de CALAIS and SEA FRONT

A PROFILE OF A MONUMENTAL MACHINE

Le Dragon de Calais is a monumental construction made of steel and sculpted wood. His distinctive style of motion finds its origins in the locomotion and movement of reptiles. He is highly expressive and breathes fire and smoke and expels water in jets. Mist is also expelled from his body through thirty or so vents. His eyes, eyelids, ears, mouth,

tongue and fins are all moveable. He can lie down, stand up, move at up to 4 km/h and beat his wings, which are made from thick canvas, When not in action during productions and when operating in "City Machine"* mode, 50-60 passengers can ride in the carriage on his back, which is accessed via the stairs cut into his tail.

Dimensions

Height : 10 to 15 metres

Width : 5 to 17.5 metres with wings unfurled

Lenght : 25 metres

Weight : 72 tonnes

Speed : 0 to 4 km/h

Hybrid propulsion

Inputs : Water, Air, Electricity, Hydraulics

Materials : Wood, Metal, Leather, Canvas, Copper

Effects : Breathing, Smoke, Flames, Water jets, Sound

Manipulation : 4 to 17 persons (spectacle team event)

Capacity : capable of carrying 50 - 60 passengers

* City Machine: A 'City Machine' is a machine, which has a civic function i.e. passenger transport. 'The Elephant of Nantes' and 'The Minotaur' of Toulouse are both 'City Machines'. They are also works of architecture, a kind of mobile belvedere overlooking the city.



Dragon's head assembly — ©Pauline David - Cie La Machine



Dragon's ears assembly — ©Frédéric Collier - Calais city

COMPAGNIEDUDRAGON.COM

LAMACHINE.FR



le DRAGON de CALAIS

UN SPECTACLE
de François Delarozière
& Compagnie La Machine

DU 1^{ER} AU 3
NOVEMBRE

2019

VILLE
DE CALAIS

RÉGION
HAUTS DE FRANCE

MINISTÈRE
DE LA CULTURE

LE DRAGON DE CALAIS

The spectacular Inaugural Celebrations 1st to 3rd November, 2019

From 1st to 3rd November, 2019, La Machine Company will introduce a new creation to the world, Le Dragon de Calais, commissioned by the City of Calais.

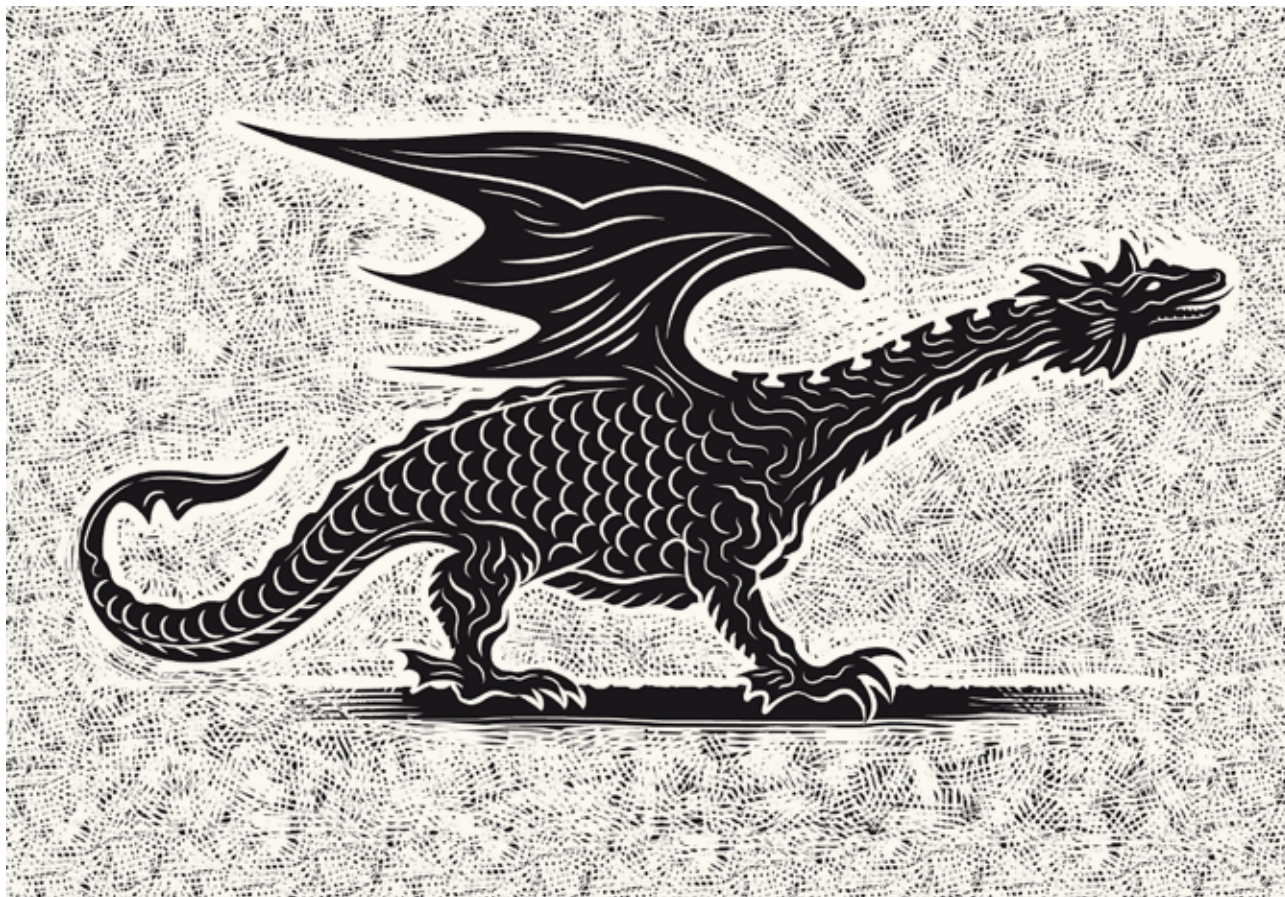
Myth is an imaginary fresco telling the story of creation. For thousands of years, men and women have handed down such stories as a means of making sense of the world and of life. They form the bedrock of the community. Myth may have lost its formative function today, yet it still underpins the creation of a collective imagination.

In choosing to create a dragon, François Delarozier has seized upon an universal figure. Dragons are present in all civilisations. Often they are the symbol of power and are associated with the elements of water, earth and fire, of which dragons are the Guardians. The etymology of the word, 'dragon', means 'to see', 'to have a sharp eye'. It is the dragon, who watches over a treasure trove in folk lore. They also symbolise the union of opposites and embody the fascination for the unknown.

Irrespective of their origin, they are often covered with scales and are horned, clawed and winged. The dragon is a chimera, which contains elements of several animals like the lion, eagle and reptiles. The dragon is also a being of great intelligence. It is said that the world was created from the dreams of dragons. Dragons are certainly known in the Nord region of France and the traditional processions and parades of effigies of giants and dragons are now included on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List. On the top of the belfry of Calais' Town Hall, there is a dragon weathervane showing the direction of the wind. Perhaps the architects and the Mayor at the time, when the Town Hall was being designed, knew which way the wind was blowing and foresaw that one day Calais would welcome home Le Dragon de Calais to the City. That day has come with the spectacular Inaugural Celebrations, 1st to 3rd November, 2019! The spectacular Inaugural Celebrations will be the

highlight of the festivities to welcome Le Dragon to Calais as a 'City Machine'. The inauguration will acknowledge Le Dragon's contribution to the urban renewal of the Sea Front and the city in the eyes of the world. The Inaugural Celebrations are expected to attract thousands of spectators, including those, who might not even realise the significance of Le Dragon's role in the transformation of Calais. The aim of the Inaugural Celebrations is to create a collective moment of public unity within the public arena and to cast the city in a new light. A new urban myth about the arrival of Le Dragon de Calais will be the theme and scenario of the welcoming spectacles, which have been especially created for the occasion by François Delaroziere. The Inaugural Celebrations are bound to both thrill and delight all the inhabitants of the Calais region and, just as importantly, all the visitors and tourists passing through Calais the weekend of 1st to 3rd November.





THE STORY

“Beneath the thick crust of the earth runs a maze of deep galleries which connect the seas and the continents. Sometimes, these galleries branch out and widen until they create worlds.

Fantastical creatures inhabit these galleries. Large human settlements are the gateways out of this subterranean labyrinth, they open up the passages that connect the underground world to our world.

Since the dawn of time, these «gateways» have been sealed and held shut by sacred stones. The Dragons are the world’s gatekeepers. It is they who maintain balance.

Dragons exist in all shapes and colours, they possess enormous powers and every dragon is unique. Le Dragon de Calais is fire, air, earth and water... he has always watched over the lands and seas of the north.

Dragons only appear to humans in situations of extreme need, to settle a conflict or to allay an evil. They are naturally benevolent but can also be wild and unpredictable.”

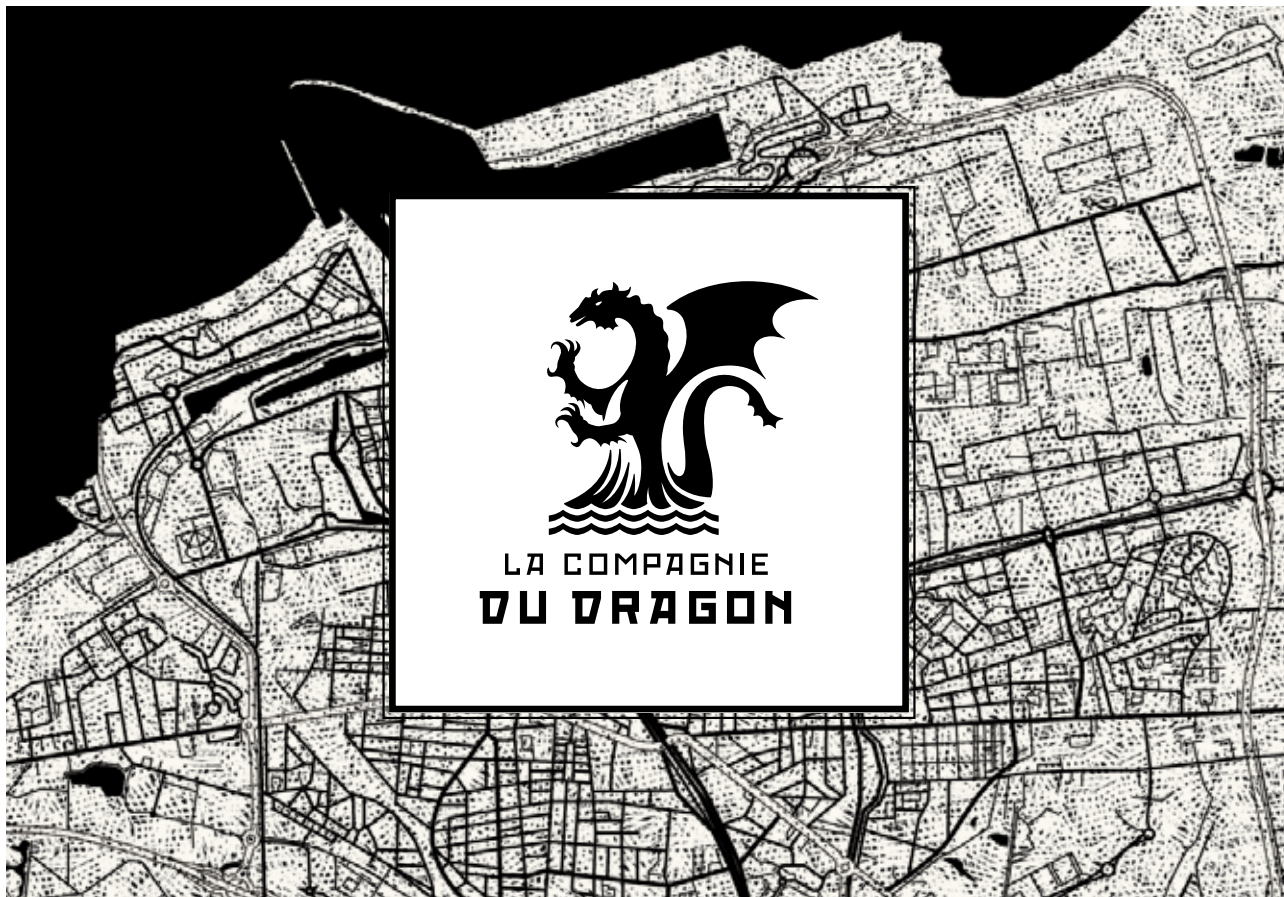
During recent undersea works carried out to extend the port of Calais, workers have broken open the sacred stone that locks the gateway of the north and protects the surface of the earth from the denizens of the subterranean worlds. A fantastical creature has managed to cross the threshold and enter our world.

The footprints found in the sand are those of a gigantic dragon.

Freed from the subterranean worlds, le Dragon de Calais is heading for the city. People's first instinct will be to ward him off and obstruct his advance, with the aim of sending him back into his own world.

François Delaroziere





LA COMPAGNIE DU DRAGON

The organisation responsible for Le Dragon de Calais

A local public corporation, SPL Grand Calais Tourisme & Culture was created in January, 2019 to implement Le Dragon de Calais project. In the Spring of 2019, it took on a new identity more fitting for its mission, La Compagnie de Dragon. Within the framework of a public service corporation, La Compagnie de Dragon will act on behalf of the City of Calais in ensuring the commercial exploitation and technical operation of Le Dragon de Calais and its companions when they arrive here. Le Dragon de Calais will be the centrepiece for La Compagnie de Dragon's actions. Every day, it will tour the Sea Front carrying between 50-60 people on its back for a ride lasting approximately 30 minutes. 'Behind the scene', guided tours of Le Dragon's machinery and technology, a restaurant

area and a souvenir shop will be on offer for visitors to enjoy at Le Dragon's temporary residence, La Cité provisoire. From 17th December 2019 onwards, La Compagnie de Dragon will start offering the public regular, scheduled rides in Calais on Le Dragon de Calais, initially close to its temporary home, La Cité provisoire, and then, gradually, over time, it will expand the itinerary to include locations intended to house future amenities and creations planned by La Machine Company. Recruitment is under way between now and the end of 2019 to prepare for the arrival of Le Dragon de Calais. By the final stages of this project, 70 direct jobs will have been created.



3D view of the temporary shelter — ©Nicolas Kelemen Architecture

DECEMBER 2019

La CITÉ PROVISOIRE

A temporary home and centre of activity for Le Dragon de Calais

Le Dragon's shelter

Le Dragon's shelter, La Nef du Dragon, the eventual home of Le Dragon de Calais, will be delivered at the end of 2020. Pending the construction of his

future, cosy lair, Le Dragon de Calais will take refuge in a temporary shelter, La 'Cité provisoire', designed by the architect, Nicolas Kelemen.

La Cité Provisoire: A temporary home

To be installed close to the Sea Front this Autumn, 2019, La Cité provisoire will consist of a temporary shelter of high quality to house Le Dragon de Calais, along with a temporary village providing amenities. This shelter has been designed to act as a display window, allowing a completely unrestricted view of Le Dragon de Calais from the outside. It will be aligned with the public thoroughfare, Avenue Churchill, so that visitors will be able to approach as close as possible to view Le Dragon at home. The facade of the shelter will be made up of transparent polycarbonate sheets. Thanks to the installation of spotlights, both on

the ground and inside the structure, the shelter will take on the appearance of a magic lantern at night and will be clearly visible from the sea and the city. It will provide a magnificent showcase for Le Dragon de Calais to be seen at his best. Although the primary purpose of this focal point will be to house Le Dragon de Calais, the creation of an urban zone there will provide the public with the opportunity to discover Le Dragon de Calais up close and will also be a place of great interest and a favourite meeting point for both Calaisiens and visitors to Calais.

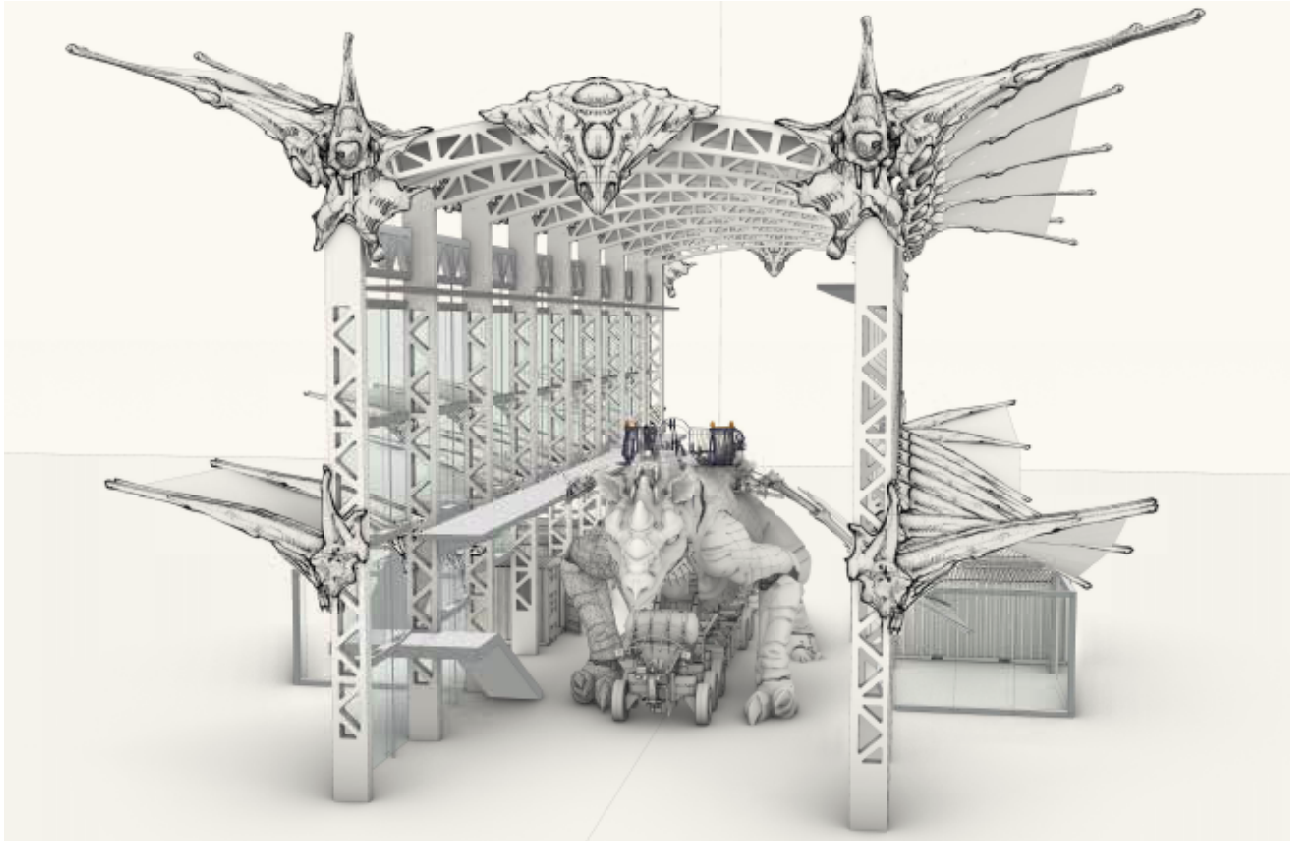


3D view of the temporary village — ©Nicolas Kelemen Architecture

A temporary village

The temporary village consists of modular structures similar to sea containers, thereby evoking not only the seafaring origins of the site opposite the Port, but also the mobile nature of the project and Le Dragon de Calais. Temporary in their structure, they will provide all the facilities needed for the smooth operation of La Compagnie du Dragon, including a souvenir shop, a ticket

office, a fast food outlet, administrative offices and Maintenance & Service areas, as well as recreational areas for visitors. The idea of Natacha Bouchart and François Deleroziere is to create a warm and friendly venue for both private and public access, a vibrant centre of activity and an attractive meeting point.



Modelisation of Dragon's Shelter — ©Cie La Machine

The EVOLUTION of the PROJECT

CHRISTMAS 2020, THE NEF DU DRAGON, A RECONFIGURABLE SHELTER

La Nef du Dragon will be Le Dragon's eventual home and shelter on Calais Plage. It will be a multipurpose, reconfigurable building and is due to be delivered year end, 2020. Until then, Le Dragon du Calais will reside in his temporary home, La Cité provisoire.

There, in Le Dragon's place of daily rest, he can curl up in comfort inside La Nef du Dragon, an umbrella-shaped construction of glass, steel and sculpted wood. In the evening, the glass structure will emit a soft, glowing light, so that the world will be able to see Le Dragon de Calais at peace, watching over the Port. When he approaches the entrance to La Nef du Dragon, the vertebra-like protrusions on the frame of the building start to vibrate in a random sequence of gentle sine waves, slowly undulating up and down, which emulate Le Dragon's mood, as he winds down for the night. The vibrations are driven by hydraulic actuators and they continue until Le Dragon appears to be sound asleep. It is as

if La Nef du Dragon is a cocoon, which resonates to the rhythm and heartbeat of Le Dragon. La Nef du Dragon is where Le Dragon will receive his annual maintenance service, which is carried out in full view of the public. Being a multipurpose structure, it is also intended for use by the local people of Calais. When Le Dragon is not at home, La Nef du Dragon can become a centre for leisure pursuits with numerous indoor activities planned or it can be used simply for taking a break in the day. In addition, there will be evenings when Le Dragon makes way, so that La Nef du Dragon can be host to community and public events.



View of military Risban fort — © Xbofilms

THE DEVELOPMENTS AT FORT RISBAN

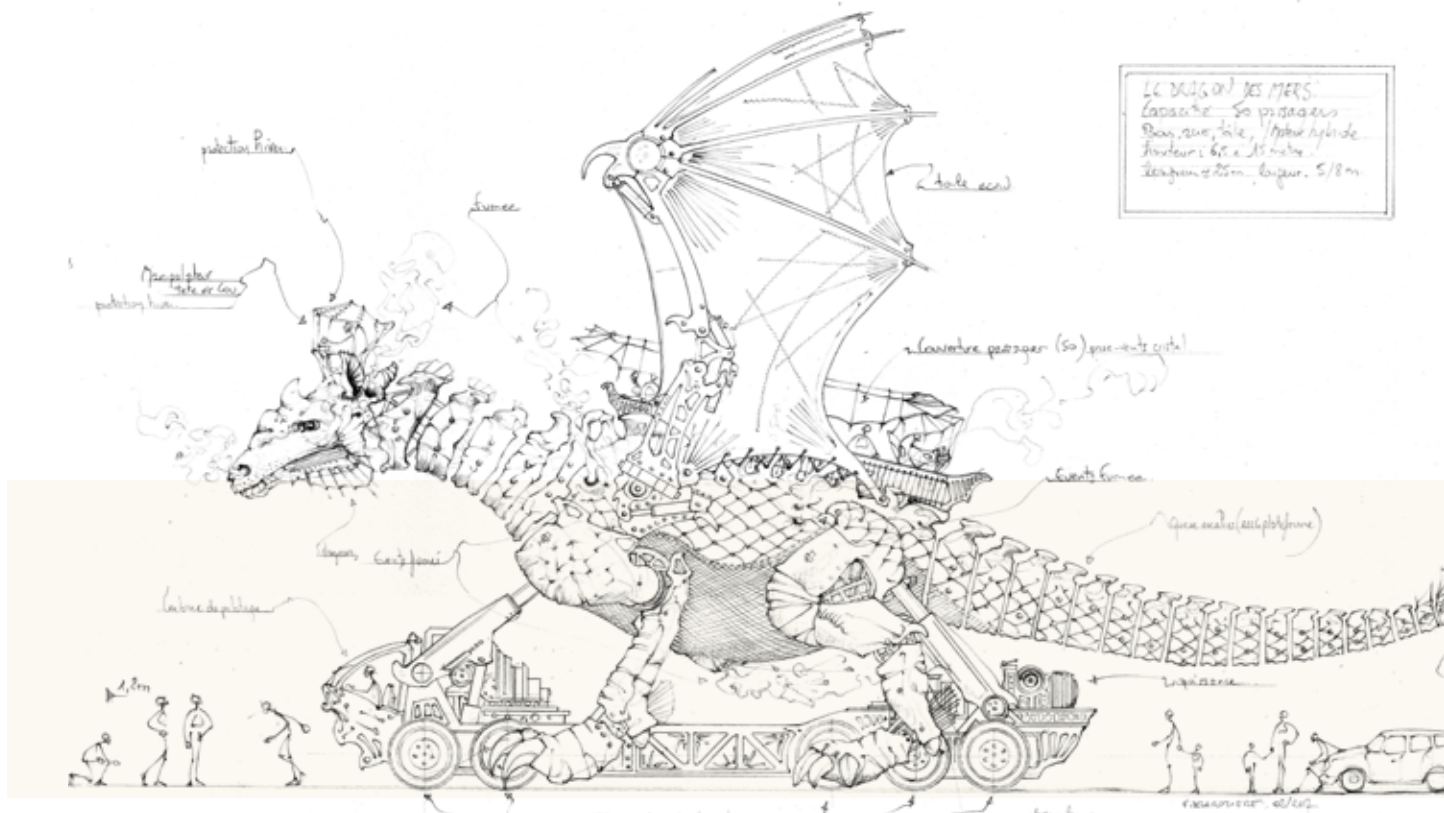
Fort Risban, a historic fort, whose origins date back to medieval times, stands at a strategic point halfway between Calais Nord and the Sea Front and offers an outstanding view over the Port. It is an invitation for a relaxing stroll. The construction permit for the development of the Fort Risban site is currently in the preparation stage.

The new bar and souvenir shop

Located in the Fort's former powder magazine, the souvenir shop will be a space for the sale of publications, souvenirs, gifts and all other products connected with the world of Le Dragon. A terrace and bar will be constructed where snacks and refreshments will be available.

The future, fixed working machines

As part of the development at Fort Risban, three new machines will be installed on the roof of the Fort. Like giant mobiles, these new, impressive machines can be set in motion and controlled by the public, with free access to them. While Le Dragon is perambulating along the Sea Front, they will offer an alternative attraction to visitors, who become, in turn, both spectators and operators. These machines are part of the family of Le Dragon de Calais, living as his neighbours, and are precursors to the arrival of more mechanical Reptilians.

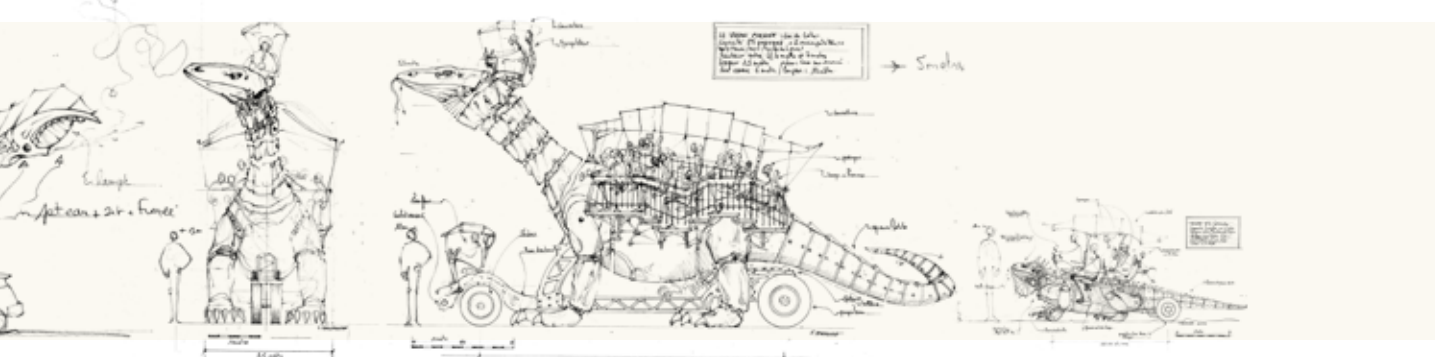


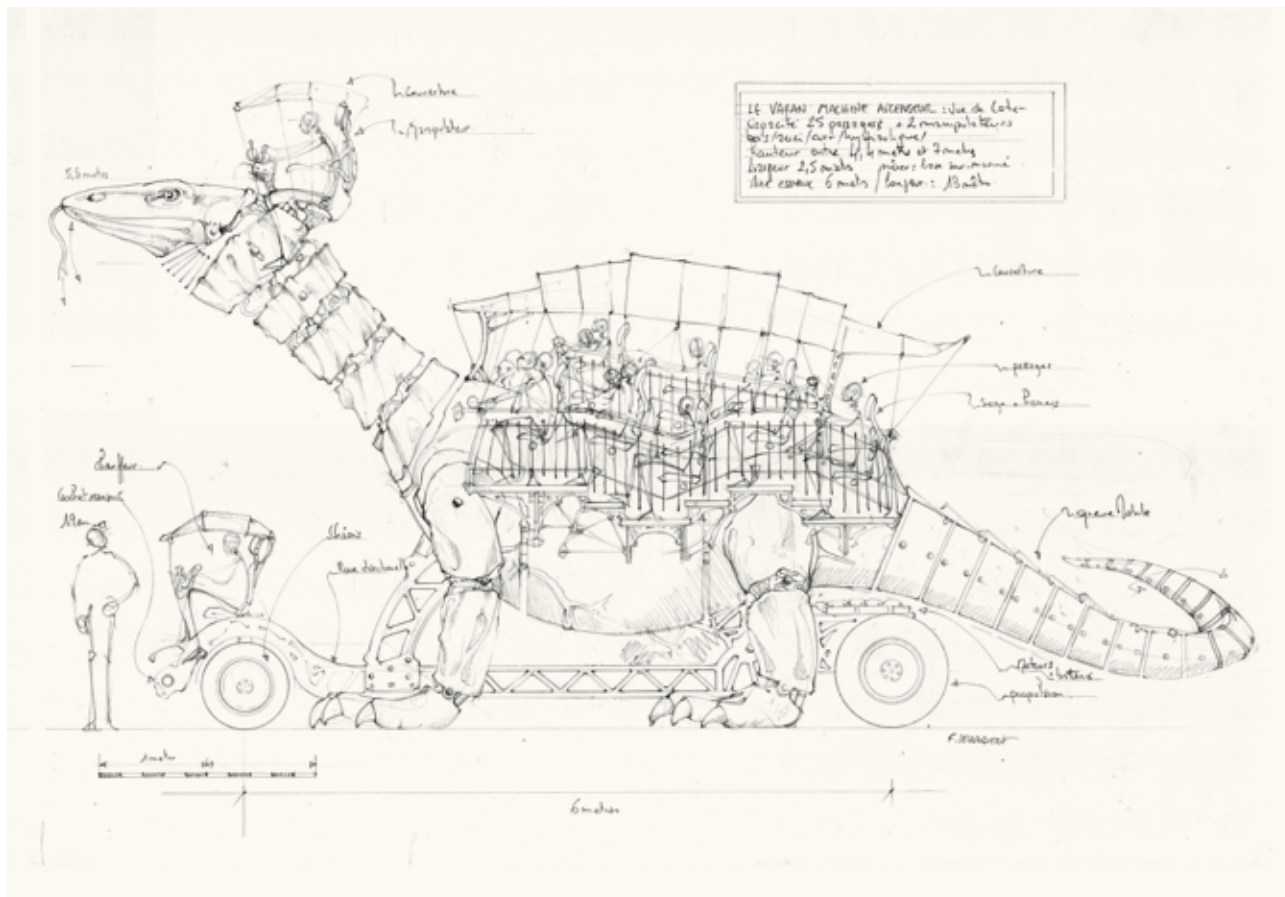
THE PROJECT POST 2020 : 3 FUTURE PHASES

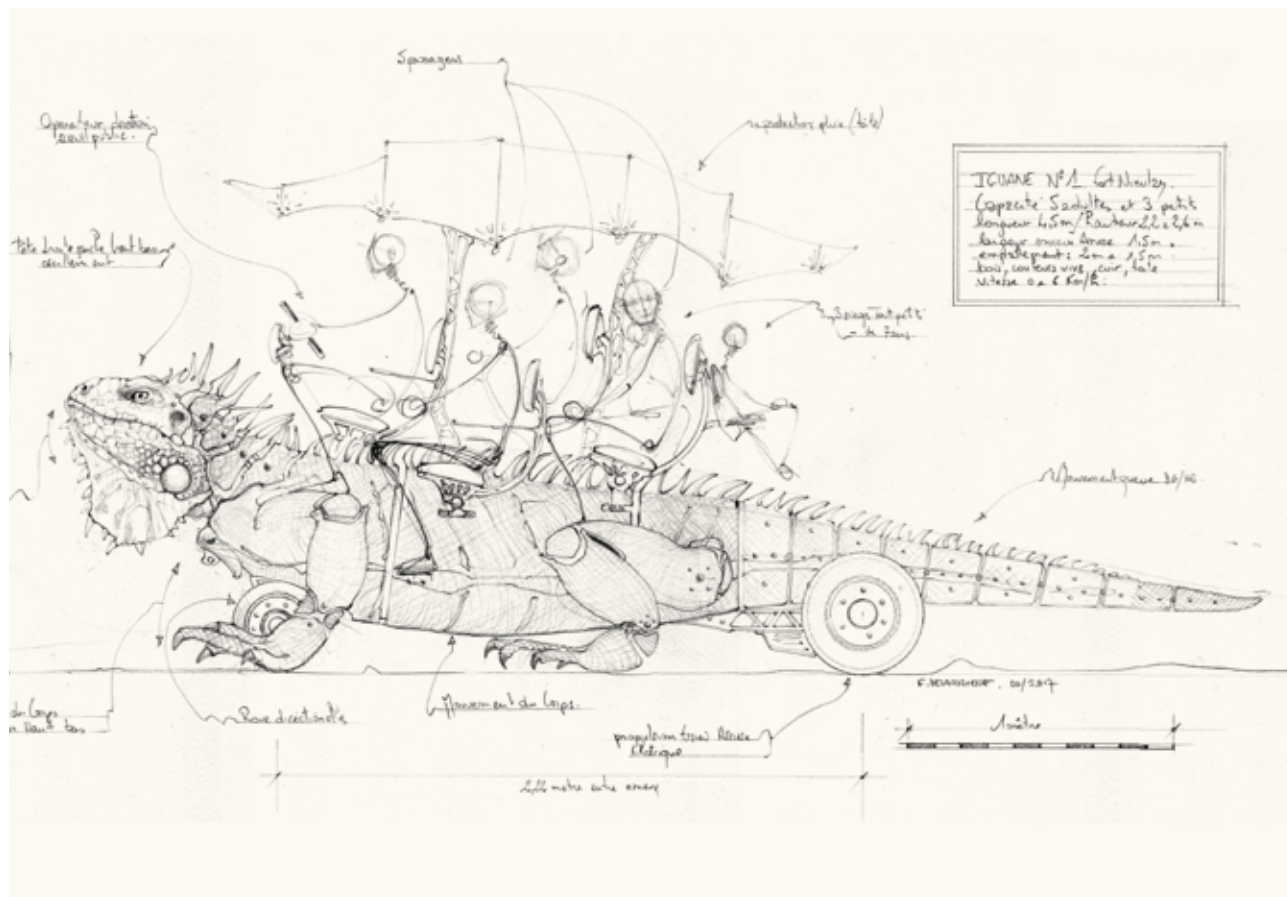
The project has been designed in three phases, which follow the timetable of the urban transformation of Calais. It should eventually give rise to a family of ten machines, spread over the three phases planned.

The project features several types of reptilian-inspired creatures, sited in various iconic locations in Calais. The machines live and operate in the urban space. They interact with their immediate environment, be it street furniture, traffic and pedestrian passers-by, thus creating a permanent, ongoing, daily performance. Each machine will be located at a site, which will have been part of the programme of urban transformation, like Le Dragon

de Calais on the Sea Front, the three, fixed Working Machines at Fort Risban, the Monitor Lizards at the Dombunker site, the family of Iguanas at Fort Nieulay and the Large Iguana in the District of Saint Pierre. As legend would have it, each of the machines will move around the city, seeking out their fellow machines and some of them might even take to the road!









Calais' dike — ©Frédéric Collier – Calais city

The REDEVELOPMENT of the SEA FRONT

CALAIS, BETWEEN HISTORY AND RENEWAL

Military in the past, a port and a coastal resort today, Calais and the Calaisis region is a territory with a rich tradition, landscape and history. The redevelopment of the Sea Front is a reconquest of a strategic feature of the city. The idea is to offer local people and tourists a harmonious and pleasant environment with a place for walking, relaxation and high-quality leisure activities. The work on the Sea Front of Calais is organised around two key stages, phased over time.

PHASE ONE

The first phase of works, completed in 2018, has opened up the perspective with the renovation of the route between the city and beach, in particular, through the development of the Pluviôse roundabout and Avenue Churchill, which leads

to Calais Plage. The intention to create a pleasant, touristic experience from Calais Nord, the heart of Calais's restaurant area, to the beach is also reflected in the development and upgrading of the Fort Risban site with the creation of a dune park and pedestrian promenade areas and with the creation of a landscaped parking area and with children's play equipment and new urban furniture. Finally, an esplanade on the Sea Front has been created with direct access to the pier. The parking areas located in front of the restaurants on Calais Plage and near the lifeguard station have been reorganised to their advantage and a food village with a modern, welcoming design and with outdoor seating and a separate area of picnic tables, has been put in place for holidaymakers to enjoy.

PHASE TWO

The second phase of redevelopment of the public spaces of the Sea Front will start in September, 2019 across the length of the entire seawall. Once the Sea Front has been pedestrianised by rerouting the existing road, a long promenade for pedestrians will be put in place. Wood decking, designed with walkers in mind to encourage their activity, will be installed along the length of the beach to link up all the Sea Front's new amenities. As part of the promenade, a route way will also be constructed in a material suitable for the daily perambulations of Le Dragon de Calais along Calais Plage. Three key unifying levers are being deployed by the project team to develop the concept of a twenty-first century leisure resort: Culture: a lever to encourage artistic curiosity and interest; the Recreational Dimension: a lever to promote the intergenerational use of the sites; Sport: a lever, historically associated

with beach life, with a full programme of activity and facilities like the skate park, fitness spaces and the City Stadium with its workout areas, basketball court and mini football pitch. A number of play areas will be installed within the bounds of the project, including one in the park facing the sea, which will be open to all and inspired by a maritime theme. It will feature custom-designed play equipment, based, in particular, on offshore buoys. A belvedere on the edge of the Sea Front is to be installed, which will offer visitors a walk with a magnificent panoramic view, 100 metres in length, and will be fully accessible to all. It will be surrounded by tiered stands with access to the sand. The belvedere will also double up as an amphitheatre for spectators of sports events held on the beach or as a stage for live concerts. At the prow of the belvedere, observers will be able to view the beach, the sky, the horizon

etc. through the lens of a very special kaleidoscope, mounted on four legs, another unique, curious design to grace the Sea Front. A small brick paved square will form the Western section of the project, where there will be a trio of small retail kiosks, each with awnings to offer shelter to their customers. This square will be where the Summer village with its temporary structures will be installed during the high season. The district surrounding the Sea Front area and beyond provides the link between the city and the wide-open landscapes of the Opal Coast. It calls to mind the much vaster landscape of wild North Sea dunes, steep cliffs and mixed vegetation. The landscaped area of the Sea Front echoes the existing ribbon of dunes there,

replicating the colours of the dune landscapes of the North Sea and constitutes an architectural, urban and landscape project, which is in harmony with the environment, in which it is placed. A network of dunes planted with grasses is planned, which will be interspersed with other planting schemes. To reiterate, the urban development model for Calais is clear and ambitious. The aim is to create an attractive, dynamic city in terms of the economy, tourism and culture. The commitment and vision behind the project to bring Le Dragon de Calais to Calais is fuelled with the same energy and determination driving the urban redevelopment project and, together, they will position Calais as a benchmark for city regeneration.

BASE



General view of the sea front urban transformation — ©BASE

THE CHALLENGES OF THE URBAN TRANSFORMATION OF CALAIS

The history between François Delaroziere and La Machine Company and Calais and its people goes back a long way. In fact, the company has performed virtually all of its productions in Calais, particularly in collaboration with Le Channel, the performing arts theatre of Calais. In 2016, the company presented its spectacle, 'The Spirit of the Dragon-Horse', after performances in Beijing and Ottawa in Canada. Natacha Bouchart, the Mayor of Calais, wished to follow up on these artistic interventions in the streets of Calais by permanently enlisting the skills acquired by François Delaroziere over more than 25 years as a producer/art director, which have established his work at the forefront of public space intervention and its transformation. The objectives of the project are manifold. The key challenge is undoubtedly the touristic and economic development of the city. *"It was necessary to establish a consistent link and a natural fit between the projects developed today and Calais's distinctive artistic history."* explained François Delaroziere. To do this, the project devised by La Machine Company had to promote the establishment of a twenty-first century coastal resort and, yet at the same time, leverage its heritage and its landscapes in order to

usher Calais out of its industrial era and into a new cultural era. The cultural contribution to the urban transformation project, embarked upon by Calais, will undoubtedly place the city on the tourist map of Northern Europe and will attract the attention of the tens of millions of travellers and tourists, who pass through Calais every year. In this regard, the complete renovation of the Sea Front of Calais, started in recent years, has proved to be ideal for supporting this large-scale artistic project. *"The Sea Front is to be an open public space, conducive to large gatherings, and it will be the showcase for Calais. By complementing one another, the renovation and Le Dragon de Calais will both change the physiognomy of the Sea Front and will confirm our status as a preeminent coastal resort."* comments Natacha Bouchart, Mayor of Calais. It is also a question of awakening in local people a sense of pride in being Calaisien and for them to become ambassadors for the future cultural amenity. The combination of all these actions will contribute to stimulating the territory and its region economically, in particular, through indirect economic spinoffs. Once started, this momentum will increasingly attract urban development investors.



1999-2019

**20 years of productions and
support for urban projects**

COMPAGNY LA MACHINE

The company La Machine was founded by François Delaroziere 20 years ago. It came about as the result of a collaboration between artists and technicians around the construction of unusual moving theatrical objects.

Today, La Machine develops numerous projects in the field of urban development as well as that of street theatre.

In particular, it has intervened in Nantes with The Machines of The Isle, in Toulouse with the Minotaur and the Halle de La Machine and also in La Roche-sur-Yon where it installed Les Animaux de la Place in the town centre. With the arrival of the Dragon of Calais, it is nothing less than the complete renewal of the sea front in Calais - and ultimately of the city itself - that La Machine is supporting, the first phase of a vast artistic and urban development project.

This singular way of exploring architecture and urbanism has its roots in design for street theatre. Indeed, intervening in the street, in cities, has

refined the way La Machine looks at the urban environment and its transformation. From the first production, *Le Grand Répertoire - Machines de spectacle* (2003), to *Mécaniques Savantes* staged in Liverpool (2008) and François Delaroziere's latest creation, *The Guardian of the Temple* in Toulouse (2018), La Machine has staged more than 300 performances in 20 countries, from Asia to America and across Europe too. Millions of people have seen the productions of La Machine, its universal language being that of movement, a source of emotion.

www.lamachine.fr



François Delarozière

Art director of La Machine

A graduate of the School of Fine Arts of Marseille, François Delarozière encountered the Royal de Luxe company in 1983, which he supported until 2005 while at the same time bringing his own projects to fruition. These included the Big Giant, the Rhinoceros, the Little Giant, the Giraffes and the Little Giantess, whose construction he directed.

In 1999, he founded the association La Machine, federating artists, technicians and set designers around the construction of unusual theatrical objects. Multiple professions are involved, from the arts and crafts to industry, and so too are cutting-edge technologies. Movement lies at the heart of the company's artistic approach. It is interpreted as a language, as a source of emotion.

Through these living machines, the aim is to dream of the city and to transform the way we look at it.

Artistic director of the company, François Delarozière is also a scenographer and director. In this capacity, he initiated *Le Grand Répertoire – Machines de spectacle*, an exhibition-show presented between 2003 and 2006 in Nantes, Calais, Toulouse, Anvers, Marseille and Paris - at the Grand Palais with the Paris Quartier d'Été art festival - and which attracted more than 700,000 spectators.

In 2003, in collaboration with Mino Malan he created *La Symphonie Mécanique*, combining the world of classical music with mechanical sounds.

Mobilised between 2003 and 2007 around the Machines of the Isle project in Nantes alongside Pierre Orefice, in 2008 he and his company created *Les Mécaniques Savantes* in Liverpool, then European Capital of Culture. This mechanical bestiary was also presented the following year in Japan on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the opening of the port of Yokohama.

In 2010, a new show saw the light of day: *Le Dîner des Petites Mécaniques* which reinvented the table arts, while *L'Expédition Végétale* and its crew of botanists took their flying machine to Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Argentina and Chile.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China in Beijing in 2014, he created *Long Ma Jing Shen, a dragon-horse* later presented in Calais in 2016 and Ottawa and 2017.

In Toulouse in 2018, a new creation, *The Guardian of the Temple*, saw the light of day featuring the figure of the Minotaur, an unprecedented success in France with almost 900,000 spectators.

Le Dragon de Calais is the latest product of his imagination. It will appear in Calais in November 2019.



Le Gardien du Temple, Toulouse, 2018



Long Ma Jing Chen, l'esprit du Cheval - Dragon , Ottawa , 2017



Premier coup de Pelleteuse part of «Les animaux de la place», a mechanical menagerie
La Roche sur Yon, 2013



L'Expédition végétale, Turin, 2013

PRESS CONTACT

Agence Myra

Remi Fort
+33(0)6 62 87 65 32
myra@myra.fr

—
Cécile Morel
+33 (0)6 82 31 70 90
cecileasonbureau@orange.fr

La Machine Compagny

Frédette Lampre
+33(0)6 87 77 28 71
fredette.lampre@lamachine.fr

La Compagnie du Dragon

Stéphane Ribeiro Da Ascencao
+33 (0)6 30 79 37 00
sribeiro@compagniedudragon.com

City of Calais

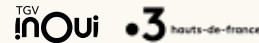
Emeline Flament
+33(0)3 21 46 63 98
+33(0)6 01 12 06 81
emeline.flament@mairie-calais.fr

—
Pascal Martinache
+33(0)3 21 46 20 83
+33(0)7 85 14 03 08
pascal.martinache@mairie-calais.fr

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