



## *La Rose des Vents*

A Monumental Sculpture  
for the Golden Gate Park, by Jean-Michel Othoniel

San Francisco, California



JEAN-MICHEL OTHONIEL / *La Rose des Vents* / San Francisco 2015

# *La Rose des Vents*

*«When I first came to San Francisco in 1999 for my show at the Yerba Buena Center, I went to the Golden Gate park to visit the Conservatory of Flowers. I instantly fell in love with this wonderful historical place.» - Jean-Michel Othoniel*

*La Rose des Vents* is a kinetic sculpture made from gold and aluminum that pays homage to the compass rose, an ancient device used to gauge wind direction. Installed in front of the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park, where it can shimmer in the sun and shifts with the breeze, the Rose appears as a golden flower among flowers, animating the earth with moving shadows or reflecting the sky with his golden mirror beads.

As for *The Beautiful Dances*, the fountain sculptures I created for the Water Theater grove redesigned by the French landscape designer Louis Benech for the gardens of the château de Versailles, I worked with gold to create *La Rose des Vents*. It is a very evocative material to me. The exceptional character and halo-like qualities of this instantly perceptible work are intensified by the special play of light created by the reflection of the metal.

This sculpture was inspired by the real flower and the desert rose, delicate crystal formations that appear in arid places as fragile as glass, my favourite materials since the 1990s. *La Rose des Vents* is a sculpture that embodies my longtime love for the symbolism of flowers and a contemplative approach to nature.

Flowers play an integral role in my work. My obsession with the hidden meanings of flowers and with their symbolism is a way of looking at the world and an expression of my desire to see the marvels that surround us; what is real is a continual source of wonder. Since my childhood, I have amassed a stock of notes on the history of plants and photographed the flowers and trees that I like. The rose is the symbol of beauty itself, of the power of love that conquers death.

And now, having the chance to show *La Rose des Vents* in this amazing location truly links my work to the city, connecting my sculpture with the history of flowers, the movement of the artwork with the changing weather of the bay, the golden surface of the sculpture with the spirit of the golden gate.

*Jean-Michel Othoniel, December 2015*





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## SELECTED PRESS



**“The gardeners in charge of the floral arrangement even waited for *La Rose des Vents* to be installed to complete the flowerbed surrounding it. Gorgeous and harmonious.”**

Lost in SF, Sep 8, 2015

**“Don’t miss this truly remarkable work of public art. It’s France best gift to the States since the Statue of Liberty.”**

7x7, Sep 10, 2015

**“A new kind of rose is blooming in front of the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers.”**

Mary Jo Bowling, Curbed, Sep 25, 2015

**“San Francisco will sparkle a little brighter this fall thanks to a pair of dazzling new artworks from renowned Parisian artist Jean-Michel Othoniel.”**

Garrick Ramirez, 7x7, Sep 28, 2015

**“A 12-foot high work by French sculptor Jean-Michael Othoniel— will be unveiled in front of the Conservatory of Flowers. Response was so favorable that officials are hoping to find a permanent home for it here.”**

Leah Garchik, San Francisco Chronicle , Sep 24 2015

**“San Francisco should count itself lucky that French artist Jean-Michel Othoniel — who recently opened Les Belles Danses, the first permanent installation at Versailles in several centuries — has not one but two pieces up, and each is lovely to see.”**

Peter Lawrence Kane, San Francisco Weekly , Oct 7 2015

## PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST, KEY MOMENTS AND WORKS

### Jean-Michel Othoniel

Born in 1964 in Saint-Étienne. Lives and works in Paris.

**1997:** Jean-Michel Othoniel hangs giant necklaces in the trees of the gardens of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice

**2000:** he carries out a public order for the first time, transforming the Paris subway station of Palais-Royal–Musée du Louvre into *Le Kiosque des Noctambules*

**2003:** for the exhibition “Crystal Palace” at the Fondation Cartier in Paris and the MoCA in Miami, Othoniel creates blown-glass enigmatic sculptures somewhere between jewelry, architecture, and erotic object

**2004:** for the exhibition “Contrepoint”, Jean-Michel Othoniel is invited by the Musée du Louvre to exhibit in the spectacular Mesopotamian courtyard

**2011:** his mid-career retrospective is held at the Centre Pompidou Paris presenting the entire gamut of his artistic practice retraced his career. This exhibition, “My Way”, was then staged at the Leeum Samsung Museum of Art/Plateau, Seoul, at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, at the Macao Museum of Art, Macao, and at the Brooklyn Museum of New York.

**May 2015:** Jean-Michel Othoniel revealed *The Beautiful Dances*, three fountain sculptures installed on the ponds of the new Water Theatre grove in the gardens of the Château de Versailles.

**Sep 2015:** After a 5 months exhibition at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the artworks of «Secret Flower Sculptures» are staged in a double exhibition in San Francisco: at the 836m Gallery on Montgomery Street and in the Golden Gate Park, unveiling the artist’s latest monumental sculptures inspired by flowers.



Jean-Michel Othoniel with *La Rose des Vents*, 2015.