

JEAN-MICHEL OTHONIEL – PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

Jean-Michel Othoniel is the first artist to have been commissioned by the French government to create an original artwork for the Palace of Versailles since the time of Louis XIV. I had been introduced to his work several years ago by former Commissioner Larry Rinder. Jean-Michel Othoniel has proposed the temporary installation of his sculpture entitled *La Rose des Vents* at the Conservatory of Flowers. I have helped facilitate the interaction between the artist and staff from the Conservatory and am happy to report that the project has been well received by the Recreation and Park Department staff. The project will be partially funded by the French government and a letter from the French Cultural Attaché is part of your packets. Pending design approval by the Arts Commission, the project will be presented to the Operations Committee of the Recreation and Park Department. The dimensions of the sculpture are approximately 12.5' high and it sits upon a 6' square base which shall be designed by an architect to be structurally sound and secure. The image of the base in the drawing is not a final design.



FRENCH EMBASSY
IN THE UNITED STATES

HIGHER EDUCATION,
ARTS, FRENCH LANGUAGE

Mission Culturelle et Universitaire Française aux Etats-Unis

Consulat Général de France à San Francisco

88 Kearny Street Suite 600, San Francisco CA 94108

Stéphane Ré
Cultural Attaché
Consulate general of France in San Francisco
88 Kearny Street – Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94108

Object: Letter of support for the exhibition of Jean-Michel Othoniel's "La Rose des Vents"

San Francisco, May 5th, 2015

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Jean-Michel Othoniel is one of the most well-known French visual artists in the world. Please allow us to draw your attention to his latest project.

Within the Château de Versailles gardens, the elaborate Water Theatre Grove historically served as an outdoor stage where spectacles were performed for the king's pleasure. Louis XVI had it dug up during his reign. When palace officials chose landscape architect Louis Benech to bring it back to life, internationally acclaimed artist Jean-Michel Othoniel was selected to fashion its central feature, which was opened to the public in May 2015. Within this context, Jean-Michel Othoniel is invited by Gallery 836M in San Francisco, in September of 2015, to exhibit some of his preliminary works developed for the Château de Versailles project.

Other of his works will be featured within the Gallery 836M on this occasion. Jean-Michel Othoniel has also expressed the true desire to share his art with the local community of the San Francisco Bay Area. The art piece which he has chosen to exhibit in a public urban space is stunning sculpture entitled "La Rose des Vents".

I truly believe that it is a unique opportunity for Jean-Michel Othoniel to embrace a large audience, enabling the San Francisco population to discover the works of a great contemporary French artist.

Overall, Jean-Michel Othoniel's project is an excellent symbol of the close relationship which exists between the United States of America and France, where French contemporary art meets the urban landscape of the city of San Francisco and its local communities.

The Cultural Services of the French Consulate in San Francisco strongly support this initiative and would be truly delighted to see it become a reality. We are most grateful for acknowledging the expression of our support.

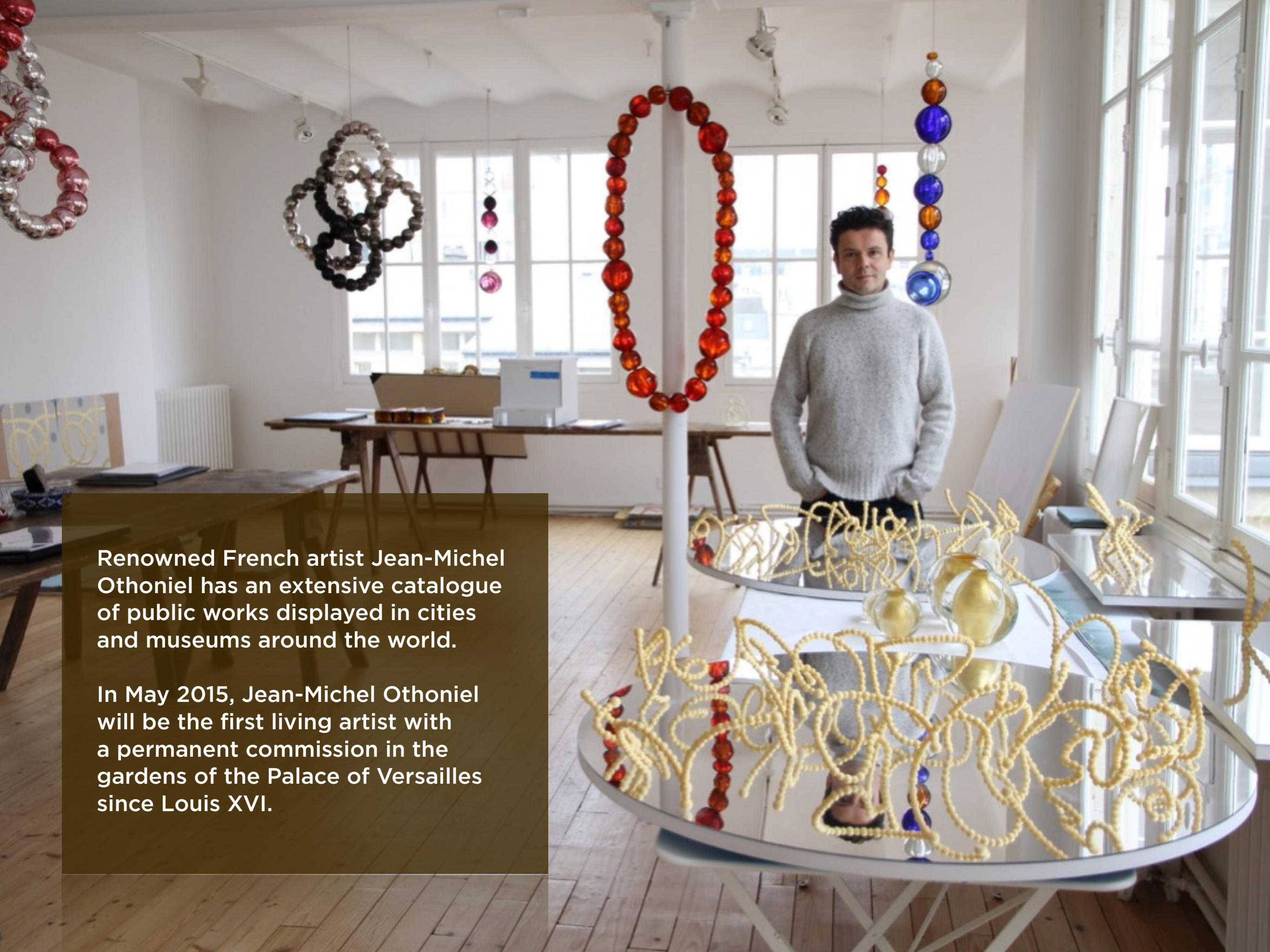
Sincerely yours,

Stéphane Ré





OTHONIEL@
SAN FRANCISCO
CONNECTING CITIES
& DREAMS



Renowned French artist Jean-Michel Othoniel has an extensive catalogue of public works displayed in cities and museums around the world.

In May 2015, Jean-Michel Othoniel will be the first living artist with a permanent commission in the gardens of the Palace of Versailles since Louis XVI.

60

Entrée

Entrée d'Apollon.

This block shows the top portion of page 60, featuring a single staff of musical notation in treble clef. The music begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The notes are written in a clear, early modern hand.

Entrée d'Apollon.

Two vertical musical staves are drawn on page 60. The top staff is a single line with a treble clef and contains several notes. The bottom staff is a double line with a treble clef and contains more notes. The drawing is done in ink and appears to be a sketch or a study for a larger work.

d'Apollon.

61

This block shows the top portion of page 61, continuing the musical notation from page 60. It features a single staff of musical notation in treble clef, with the same key signature and time signature as the previous page.

Two vertical musical staves are drawn on page 61. The top staff is a single line with a treble clef and contains several notes. The bottom staff is a double line with a treble clef and contains more notes. The drawing is done in ink and appears to be a sketch or a study for a larger work.

During his residency at the Gardner Museum in Boston, Othoniel discovered an 18th-century book in the public library, *The Art of Describing Dance* by Raoul-Auger Feuillet.

The book and its drawings became the inspiration for three fountain sculptures, *Les Belles Danses (The Beautiful Dances)*, for the Versailles commission.

"THERE WAS SOME OBVIOUS
COINCIDENCE. I HAD THIS FEELING
THAT I FOUND THE CONNECTION
BETWEEN MYSELF, MY OWN
WORLD, AND THE WORLD
OF VERSAILLES."







BOSTON
July 2011

VERSAILLES
May 2015

BOSTON
Mar-Sep 2015

SAN FRANCISCO
Sep 26, 2015 - Jan 14, 2016

TRAVELING EXHIBITION IN THE US

OTHONIEL@836M will showcase not only Othoniel's famous bronze models and watercolor sketches from the Versailles project, but also two new sculptures exclusively at 836M—*Peony*, *the Knot of Shame* (glass) and *La Rose des Vents* (gold aluminum)—that will be installed outdoors.

Boston



Versailles



San Francisco





New Orleans



Tokyo



New York



Venice



Paris



Miami



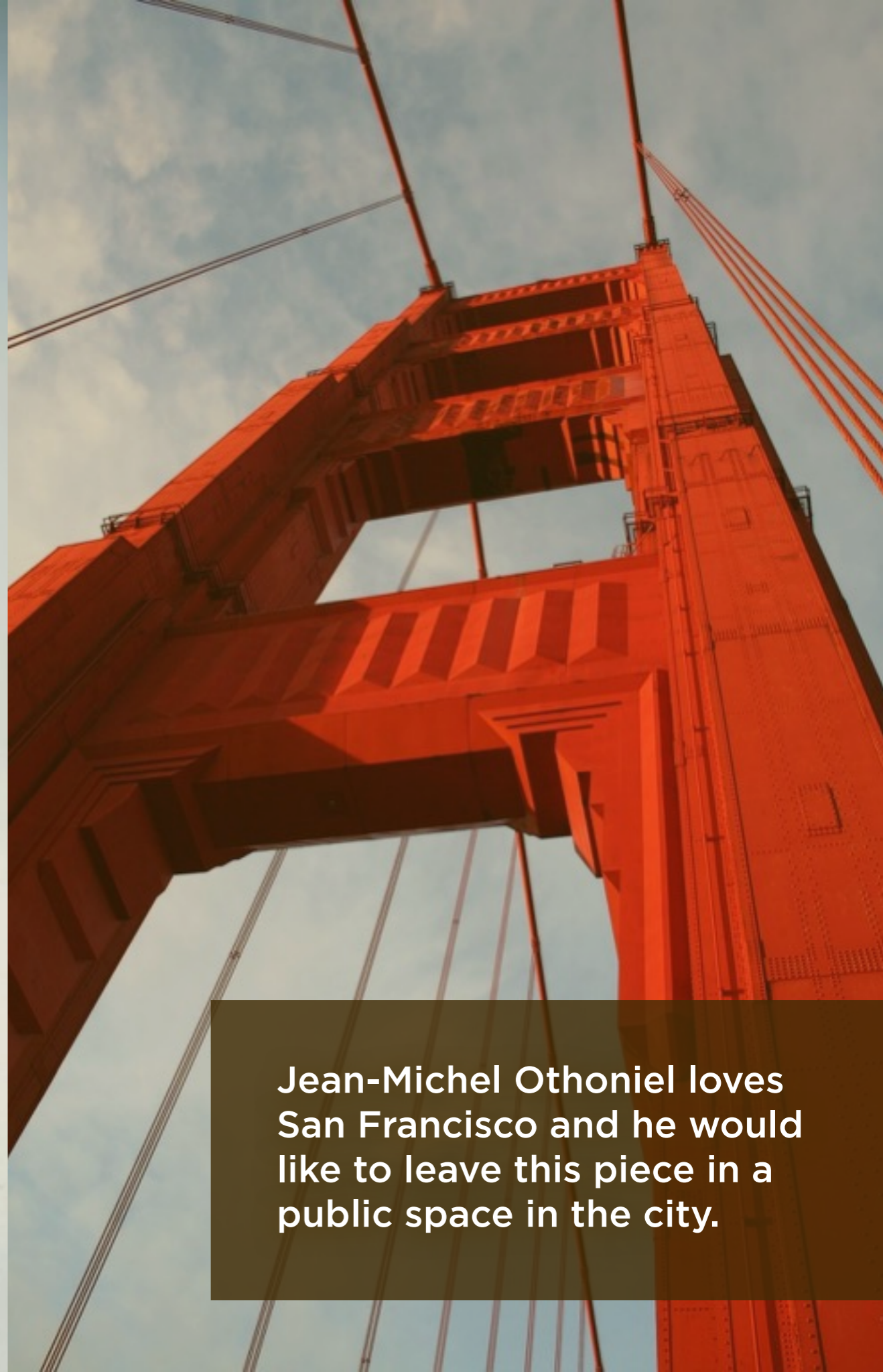
São Paulo



Erevan



Seoul



Jean-Michel Othoniel loves San Francisco and he would like to leave this piece in a public space in the city.





Do not hesitate to contact
agnes@836M.com