

NOUVEAUX COMMANDITAIRES SUISSE
NEUE AUFTRAGGEBER:INNEN SCHWEIZ
NUOVI COMMITTENTI SVIZZERA
NEW PATRONS SWITZERLAND



PRESS RELEASE

AN ARTWORK AS A GATEWAY AT THE BAINS DES PÂQUIS IN GENEVA

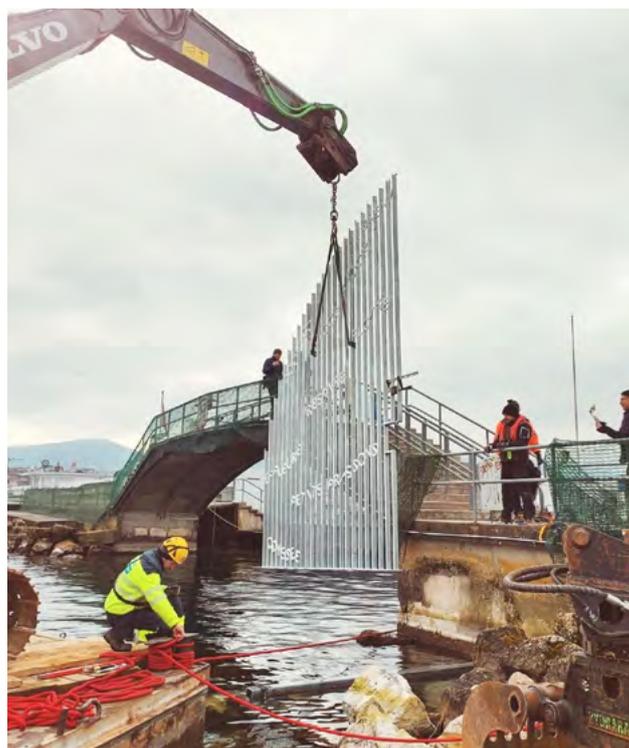
On April 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm, the Association of Users of the Bains des Pâquis (AUBP) and the Nouveaux Commanditaires Suisse will inaugurate the new gate of the Bains des Pâquis in Geneva : an original artwork designed by Lausanne-based artist Gilles Furtwängler. Installed since February 10, 2026, this artistic intervention combines functional requirements, respect for heritage, and the spirit of openness that defines the site.

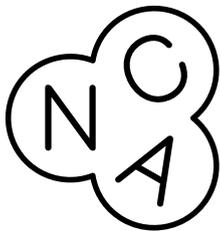
The work replaces the patchwork of metal grilles that had closed off the Goléron staircase for more than fifteen years. This improvised barrier responded to a necessity: preventing nighttime access to the Bains when they are closed, and avoiding possible accidents as well as recurring acts of vandalism on the site.

Wishing to replace this temporary device, the AUBP committee turned to Nouveaux Commanditaires, a Geneva-based cultural association active throughout Switzerland. The organization supports groups of citizens who wish to transform a concrete situation by becoming commissioners of a work of art.

The group of commissioners—composed of AUBP committee members and staff—defined the framework of the commission: an artistic gate capable of embodying the spirit of the Bains (“conviviality, a mix of generations and genders, sobriety and accessibility”), while integrating into a protected landscape and architectural setting. What if closing could also mean welcoming?

The challenge was entrusted to Gilles Furtwängler, known for his textual installations, in which words take shape and enter into dialogue with their surroundings. His work, entitled *Bienvenue sanctuaire*, is made of the same galvanized metal as the Bains' railings. Its vertical supports are linked by words that hold them together and seem to float above the mountain peaks visible on the horizon.





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Words that appear as a promise of breathing space, of a moment of relaxation: "effleure [brush lightly]... respire [breathe]... flotte [float]... petits frissons [little shivers]... ". Others address the viewer more directly: "toc toc [knock knock]... trésor, n'oublie jamais qu'au-dessus des montagnes le soleil brille [treasure, never forget that above the clouds the sun is shining]... relaxe [relax]... malaxe [knead]... croque [crunch]...".

At the crossroads of poetry and function, the installation rises to the challenge of combining safety, aesthetics, and the spirit of the Bains. Convincing both heritage authorities and project partners, the Goléron gate thus changes its face: no longer an imposed boundary, but a threshold to be crossed—an artwork to be encountered.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Thu 23 April, 11am

PUBLIC INAUGURATION

Thu 23 April, 5.30pm

PRESS INFORMATION

Philippe Constantin
info@aubp.ch
Charlotte Laubard
c.laubard@nc-na.ch

PARTNERS

Fondation de France
Fonds Municipal d'Art Contemporain (FMAC)
Canton de Vaud - Arts visuels
Buvette des Bains
Association Mains des Bains

Nouveaux commanditaires Suisse
Maison des Arts du Grütli
Rue du Général Dufour 16
1204 Genève
www.nc-na.ch
info@nc-na.ch

Picture page 1 : New gateway installation on 9 February 2026. Photo: nc-na.ch