

## Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port Headquarters Takes on New Colours with Möön's Artwork

**In asking the Nantes-based illustrator Möön to decorate the exterior of the building, Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port wished to bring an original artistic touch to its headquarters located on Quai Ernest Renaud, in Nantes. Its port identity is thereby marked in a singular way, at the heart of a thoroughfare beside the River Loire undergoing rapid change.**

Located on the banks of the River Loire, the Centre des Salorges building, which is the headquarters of Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port, lies at the heart of an increasingly busy thoroughfare that has been rendered attractive by the recent improvements made nearby, on Quai des Plantes, Quai de la Fosse, and in the Extraordinary Garden public park on the site of the former Misery quarry. Eager to enhance the value of its property at the western entrance to the City, Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port wished to make use of the exposure of the building to help the general public to discover and to learn about the port environment, by decorating it with a colourful fresco. The plans to redo the exterior of the headquarters also derive from a desire to reappropriate surfaces that are often defaced.

Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port contacted Olivier Menanteau, also known as Möön. Originally a street artist then self-taught illustrator, the artist who has become a graphic designer and artistic director agreed to take up the challenge. *"I like to work in different media and to engage with new experiences. I found out about the port environment while producing these designs. These activities are far removed from the work I usually do. I took my inspiration from photos representing the range of the Port's missions, and I set out to bring my own touch, my own universe to this. I picked out details and postures that spoke to me."* In this way he proposes a design mixing fauna and flora, the maritime world, the port environment and human activity. Riverside, the artist alludes to the biodiversity of the Loire Estuary and gives expression to the Port Authority's role in managing natural areas. Streetside, it is the dimension of the Loire as a working environment that predominates, in reference to the business centre that is embodied by the gangway between Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port's headquarters and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Möön represents there the maritime and port-based economy, through vessels, buoys, mooring lines and gantry cranes in the background, associated with silhouettes that are symbols of the diversity of port specialisms.

The fresco completely surrounds the building, decorating the windows and roller shutters on the ground floor and first floor thanks to a system of adhesive prints. *"We were very keen to display the full wealth of our heritage, representing our economic and environmental activities,"* explains Olivier Trétout, Chair of the Management Board of Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port. *"The work that Möön has done is remarkable. We hope*

### Press Contact

Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port  
Béatrice Louerat, Press Officer  
[b.louerat@nantes.port.fr](mailto:b.louerat@nantes.port.fr) – Tel.: (+33) (0)679 227 735

*that it will appeal in equal measure to the people of Nantes and to the visitors making their way between Quai des Plantes and the Extraordinary Garden."*

#### **About Möön**

*Olivier Menanteau, Möön being his artist name, is a Nantes-based illustrator and graphic designer. He began with graffiti art 25 years ago, then after some years of self-study, he attended art school. This led him to work as an artistic director and to teach graphic design for a number of years. Parallel to this, he has developed a personal universe employing a broad range of traditional and digital tools. That universe finds expression through illustrations presented on social media, in individual or group exhibitions in galleries, and in self-published artbooks. Each of his works takes us into a poetic universe featuring colourful, expressive and very varied characters.*

To find out more, go to: [https://www.instagram.com/moon\\_mxtr/](https://www.instagram.com/moon_mxtr/)

#### **About Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port**

*Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port is France's fourth largest port and plays an essential part in national, european and international procurements and shipments for firms and companies in Greater Western France. The Port receives nearly 2 700 calls by merchant vessels each year. Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port contributes to the synergies of professionals and expertise serving the sustainable development of this Regional Community. Its stated ambition is to become the reference port for energy and ecological transition, and to make that its lifeblood. The Port Authority works in partnership with the Regional Community's public- and private-sector stakeholders to enhance the Loire Estuary on an economic level and on an environmental level. It owns a Port Authority area covering 2 722 hectares, of which 1 460 hectares are dedicated to industrial and port-related activities and 1 077 hectares are reserved natural spaces. The real estate owned by the Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port Authority comprises 700 maritime or onshore structures, including 200 buildings.*

*Over the past decade, Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port has supported several projects involving collaborations with Nantes-based street artists wishing to use certain Port Authority buildings as the base for their work: the Teenage Kicks & City Down Festival with the Plus de Couleurs ("More Colours") Collective on the Quai Wilson site, Ador and Semor's "Traffic" fresco on the Quai d'Aiguillon site, the "Fresqu'île" fresco produced by Ador and Studio Katra...*

To find out more, go to: [www.nantes.port.fr](http://www.nantes.port.fr)

#### **Press Contact**

Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port  
Béatrice Louerat, Press Officer  
[b.louerat@nantes.port.fr](mailto:b.louerat@nantes.port.fr) – Tel.: (+33) (0)679 227 735