

UNIVERSITÉ  
**REM**

# **Educational Kit**

**Spotlight on the artwork  
of Michelle Bui**

**Here's your logbook! Fill in the information below to start your adventure:**

Explorer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mission date: \_\_\_\_\_

REM departure time: \_\_\_\_\_

Return-to-base time: \_\_\_\_\_

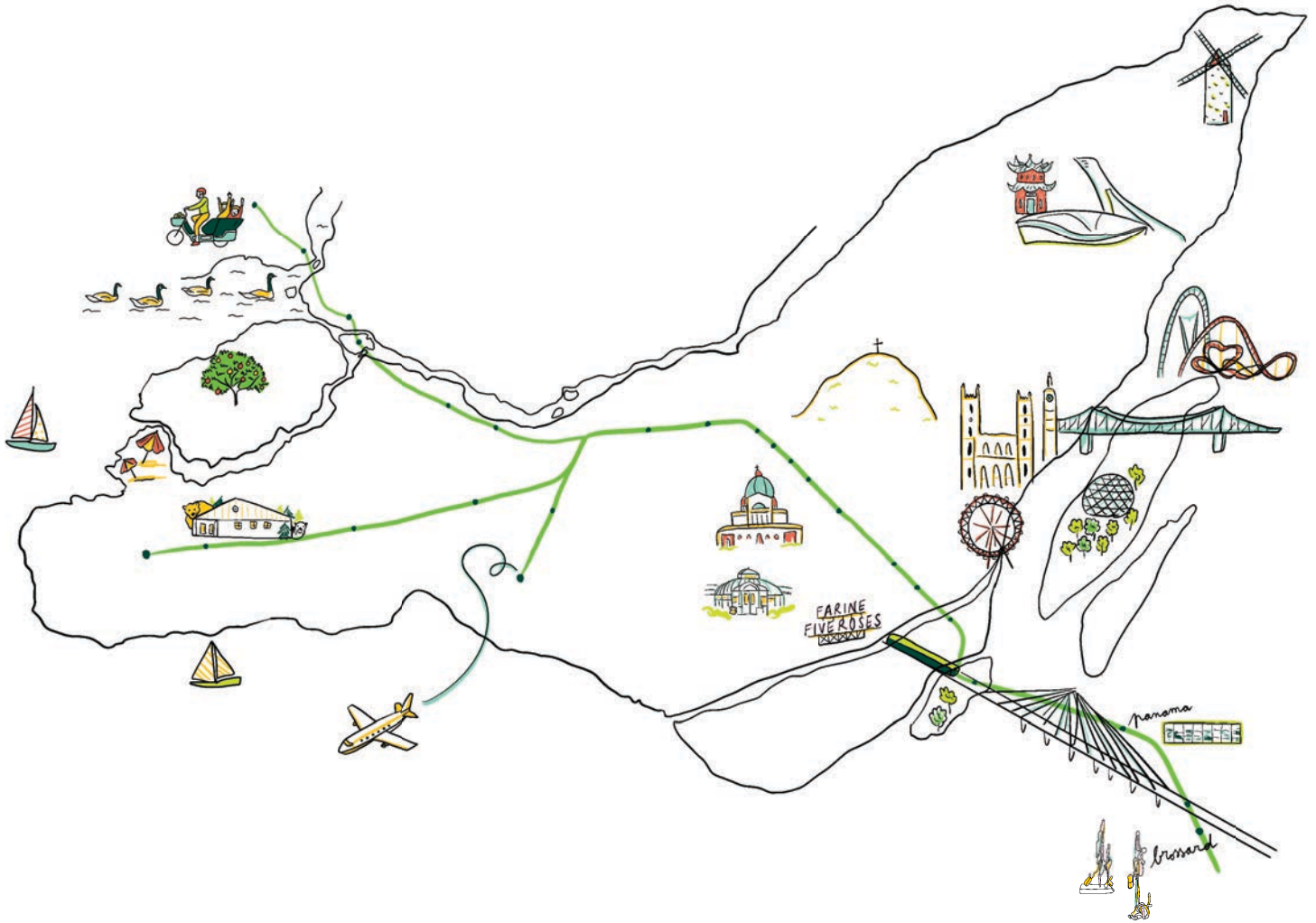
Weather conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

How you're feeling inside: \_\_\_\_\_

Your teammates: \_\_\_\_\_

**In this booklet you will find:**

- A map of the REM
- The story behind the work
- Some fun games



# Hi!

Welcome aboard the REM! This new, fully automated light rail transit system serves Greater Montreal through **26 accessible stations**. In service since July 2023, the REM now has **19 stations**, from Brossard to Deux-Montagnes. Which station are you going to choose today?



Have fun circling or drawing the transportation you used to get here.

Bicycle

Car

Metro

Scooter

With my service dog



**Did you know that artists have been chosen to make your route more beautiful?**

Their **public art** is hidden in some stations. Can you spot it on your next trip?

**How do today's artists see our world?**

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Being a contemporary artist means looking at today's world with curious eyes. Through an in-depth process, the artist uses present-day objects and ideas to tell stories. They transform their emotions and ideas into artwork. They can be realistic or abstract, and are there to make us think, surprise us, or make us feel a range of emotions. When standing in front of an artwork, you often find yourself thinking, reacting, and letting your imagination wander. A wonderful journey in itself!



The artist David Hockney

**Art comes from museums. But what is public art and what role does it play in our city?**

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**Look around: Have you ever seen an artwork near your home or in your neighbourhood?**

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Sometimes artworks aren't even noticeable, because they're part of the landscape. Yet, these artworks are in our neighbourhoods, parks and stations, permanently or only for a brief moment. Public art challenges our relationship to our surroundings, nature and society. It builds our shared history and has no borders. It can take the form of sculptures, murals, installations, photographs or mosaics.

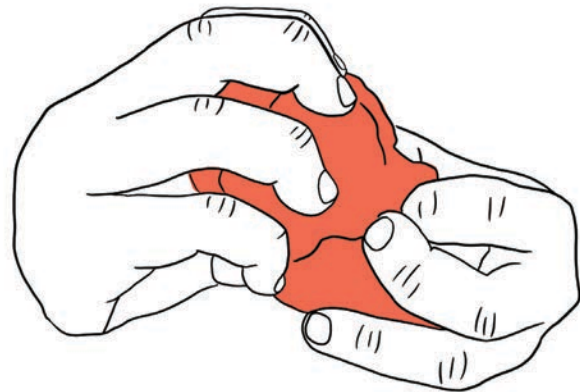
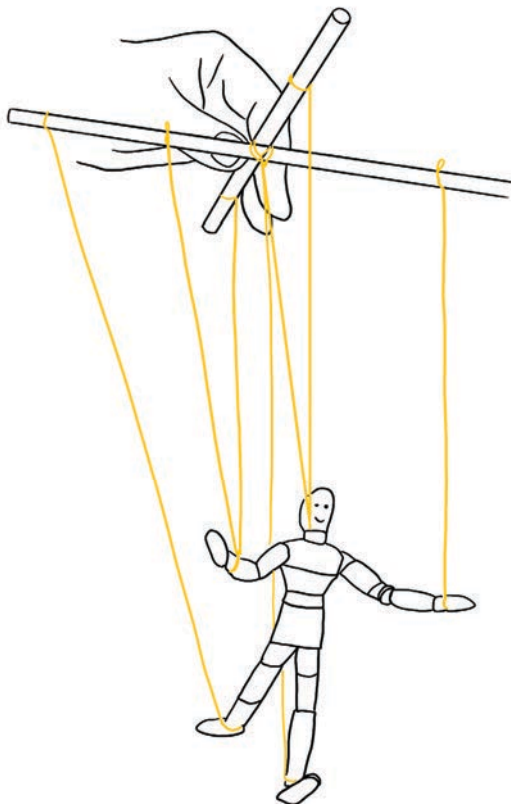
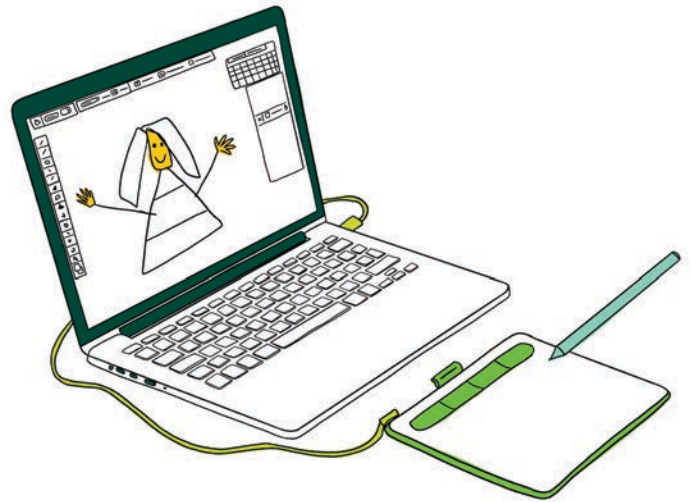


Since 1990, there has been an installation in Place Roy in Montreal consisting of eight chairs and a table, created by Michel Goulet. Have you ever been there? Are the objects all facing the same direction? What is the artist asking of us?

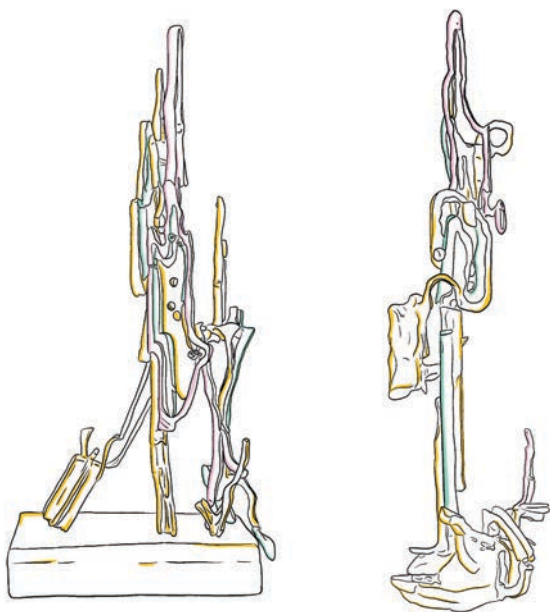
**Draw characters (humans, creatures, animals) on the chairs.**

If you could capture an emotion (like anger, intense joy, calm, fear) and turn it into a work of art, what material would you use? Choose the tool that best expresses what's in your mind. Circle what you like most or draw the object you need.

Circle what you like most or draw the object you need.



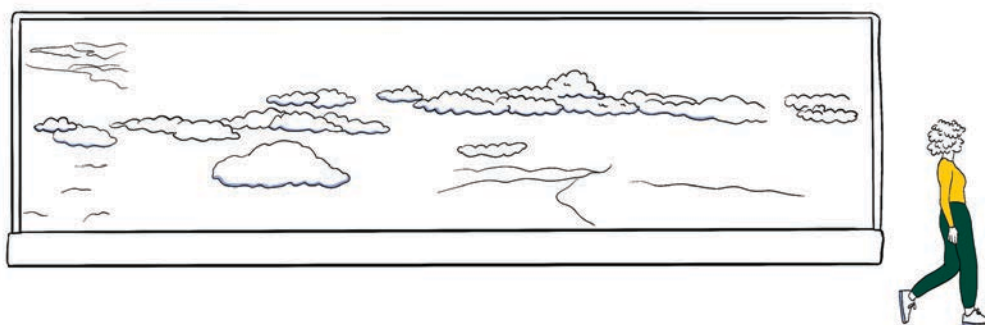
Circle the artworks you spotted while using the REM.



*Les passagers*, David Armstrong VI : Brossard Station



*Le mont habité*, Manuel Mathieu : Édouard-Montpetit Station



*Un voyage sans fin au-delà du présent*, Chih-Chien Wang : Panama Station



*Filets*, Michelle Bui : Sainte-Dorothée Station, 2025



**Michelle Bui** is a visual artist. She combines photography, poetry, ceramics, sculpture and drawing to create highly multi-sensory works. A resident of Montreal, she magically gathers objects she finds in the city, in the alleys or in her home with elements she sculpts, all embellished by her photographer's eye, forming a modern-day still life.

She created a triptych in the middle of Sainte-Dorothée station.

**Do you know what word means? When was it first used?**

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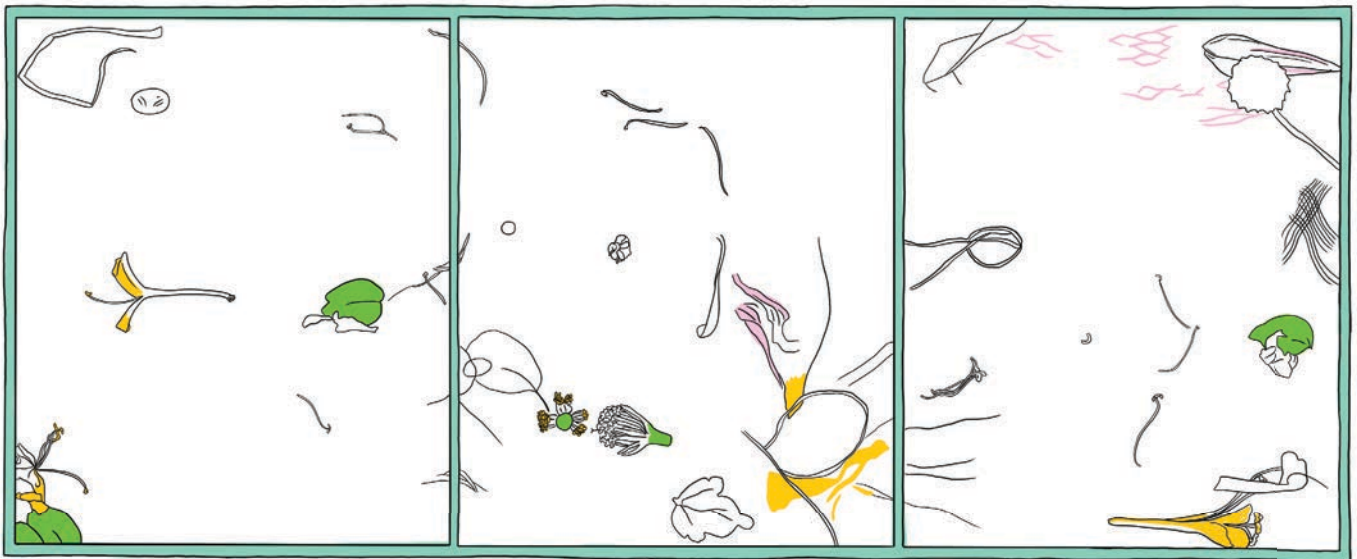
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Triptychs (three hinged panels) were first used as altarpieces in churches in the Middle Ages to illustrate bible stories. The Garden of Earthly Delights by Jerome Bosch is one of the most emblematic triptychs in the world of art, and was created in the 15th century. Today, the word "triptych" is used to describe a work in three parts.

Did you notice that the piece has three parts?

Look at Michelle Bui's triptych from a distance. What does it make you think of? What emotions does it bring up in you?

Are you feeling the movement of the objects?



### Hunt and seek!

Here, the artist makes discarded objects fascinating. In observing the work, we understand what processes (such as light or colour) make them beautiful. You can even guess the texture of the objects, by making out which ones are hard and those that are soft. Find these drawings in the triptych. You can circle or draw the objects that appear to be **hard** and those that seem **soft, light**.

In this work, the treasures of nature blend with the remains of our daily lives: can you recognize and name them? While travelling on the REM, did you notice when looking out the window places where nature is taking over the urban space?

Like the artist, you can pick flowers in Montreal back alleys in the summer. And don't forget to go back in the fall to harvest the seeds. Yes! By looking closely at their petals and pistils, you can find treasures to dry and plant next spring.



## Make seed bombs

Seed bombs are useful for creating biodiversity, brightening up the city, and attracting birds and pollinators. They are used to vegetate urban spaces and improve the quality of the air we breathe, while making spaces more attractive.



- Mix 2 parts clay, 1 part soil and a pinch of compost.
- Pour water one drop at a time, kneading the ball until a paste is formed.
- Form balls the size of a ping pong ball (about 2 cm).
- Dig a well with your finger, place 3 to 10 seeds inside it, depending on their size, and carefully close the hole up.

Alternative to clay: use a hollowed-out egg shell as a container. Fill it with soil and seeds, then close the opening with a piece of newspaper and a bit of egg white as glue.

## What are we leaving behind?

Every object we buy or use tells a story about us. Examine the way you consume and discover how you handle everyday objects. Do you prefer to buy new or second-hand toys and clothes?

**The object I have  
always kept:**

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**The object I take  
care of the most:**

**The object I used and then threw  
away quickly (objects I use once,  
that wear down quickly, or that I  
throw away without thinking):**

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Artist Michelle Bui enjoys mixing objects she cares about and objects intended to be thrown away to show us that they can also be beautiful.

## Lines and trajectories

While looking at Filets, draw continuous lines with a indelible marker on transparent sheets of paper, without looking at the paper or lifting the marker.

You can also do the same exercise with a spool of wool or coloured yarn glued to the sheet.

Once these trajectories are drawn, look at the result: where do the lines go? Which characters could use them? How do they intersect?

In a dark room, using the magic of light, have fun projecting light (with a flashlight) through the transparent sheets you have drawn on. You can create movement by moving the light source closer or further away, and by placing the sheets on top of each other and moving them. The possibilities are endless!



In this work, Michelle Bui also talks about how we connect to others, to nature, to our system... just like the REM does with its stations, cars and the different landscapes it crosses. Always in motion, just like you!