



Located in downtown Sherbrooke on Frontenac Street, at the end of Wellington North, the Esplanade Frontenac and the Place des Moulins are the work of world-renowned artist and architect, Melvin Charney.



The contemporary work of art is composed of several elements grouped in two ensembles which evoke the confluence of the Magog and Saint-François rivers. It shows the deep force of running water which takes the form of waves turning around main axis. The axle shafts reinterpret the canalization of the rolling water's energy, going toward the conduits, becoming light.

The sculpture's materialization is manifested by the representation of the parallel and sinuous lines of running water. These lines become floating waves moving around the pillars. The axle shafts reinterpret the canalization of the rolling water's energy, going toward the conduits, becoming light. The sculpture's stainless steel undulations can be seen as the water's liquidity, the materials shinning in the sun. The light reflected by the steel, treated with a stream of glass beads, resembles the reflection of rays on the water surface; one of the hardest materials takes on another appearance, shapeless and liquid.

Once the sun has set, as the night progresses, the luminous intensity of sculptural installation varies. From ambient light, the luminous intensity will increase gradually, seizing the inclined elements of the installation in an intermittent luminous crescendo. In the middle of these stainless steel structures, a light shines upward as if propelled by the hydro-electric power of the river. This light brings a symbolic dimension that is, in reality, generated by the waters of the river thanks to the historic hydro-electric plant located nearby.

Considered as an ensemble, the various components of the Esplanade Frontenac evoke the city's origins while revealing a new era. Melvin Charney is an artist, an architect, an author and a teacher. His achievements, the critical and theoretical influences of his writings and teachings as well as his contribution to Québec's cultural life have earned him international recognition. Combining sculpture and architecture, his work is a part of the most persistent and inspiring genre of contemporary art since the 1960.

