

Art

The Best Public Art of 2019

From Times Square in New York to the Parisian gardens of Petit Palais, artists summoned international attention in 2019 through fresh public artworks. The most incisive sculptures, penetrating light installations, and eye-opening murals spurred meaningful discussions around identity, politics, climate change, and community, while, at times, inspiring awe as well.

To honor such innovative, impactful artworks, the art-and-design fabrication company UAP recruits a panel of international curators each year to select the best new public works. Here, we share the 2019 list, with insights from the nominating curators on what makes these works so compelling. (To learn more, you can tune into an interactive webinar with UAP's curators on Wednesday, December 4th at 7 p.m. EST.)

Sabine Hornig, Shadows, Sydney



Sabine Hornig, *Shadows*, 2019. Photo by Mark Pokorny. © Sabine Hornig und VG-Bild Kunst, Germany. Courtesy Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York.



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"Sabine Hornig's Shadows is a complex and ambitious site-specific work that transforms the International Towers Sydney's public lobby and courtyard spaces into a remarkable journey through time and landscape. As a part of the Barangaroo development on the shores of Sydney Harbor, Hornig photographed native plants and topographical details to create a series of images that evoke the natural foreshores and vegetation of the pre-colonial period. Using both interior and exterior spaces, Hornig has layered, abstracted, and woven together images to immerse us in an evocation of nature in dialogue with contemporary architectural space."—Nicholas Baume, Director and Chief Curator, Public Art Fund