PRESS
RELEASE

LIBERTY STATE PARK
NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA
EMBASSY *and* CONSULATES
FRANCE

Freedom 250

BENBEN

an interactive luminous artwork
by French artist-engineer Milène Guermont
in Jersey City, NJ
to celebrate *Liberty Enlightening the World*

Inauguration October 30, 6 pm

Installation October 28 – December 30, 2026

Press launch with the Artist: Friday Oct 30, 4 pm

at Green Ring, Liberty State Park, Jersey City

BENBEN simulation in the *Statue of Liberty* Bay.

Within the scope of the 140th anniversary of the *Statue of Liberty*, an historical artistic installation on multiple sites by the French artist-engineer Milène Guermont is launched in the United States.

The first *BENBEN* is installed on October 28, 2026, at the Green Ring of Liberty State Park in Jersey City (NJ) near *Lady Liberty*, exactly to the day 140 years after its inauguration.

It will dialogue with the *Statue of Liberty* to celebrate its anniversary in the continuity of the artistic performance by Guermont between *PHARES* and the *Eiffel Tower* (movie).

Then, this installation will continue with a second *BENBEN* inaugurated in Tucson (AZ) on December 6, 2026, and expand to the other states of the USA: **an exceptional luminous, federative, artistic and technological adventure at a very special moment of our history.**

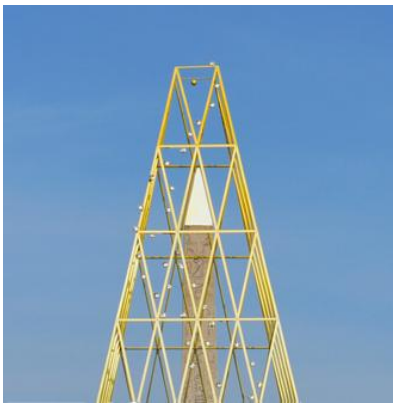
Each Saturday from 6 pm to 7 pm the visitor can light *BENBEN* up at the rhythm of her/his own heartbeat by touching the cardiac sensor and get/customize/share the video of its interaction. The other days, the lighting is automatic for this piece of art and of engineering (innovative solar panels and custom-made LEDs, anodized aluminium and electronics) imagined by Guermont.

Grand public launch with the artist and the Mayor on Friday October 30 at 6pm at Green Ring, 275 Freedom Way, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NY, USA. RSVP here.

An international History of Art & Engineering

The inspiration for the first lighthouse designed by French artist Auguste Bartholdi is an Egyptian female serf (sketches right).

The structure of the *Statue of Liberty* is designed by French engineer Gustave Eiffel and fabricated in Paris (picture left).



PHARES is drawn by French artist-engineer Milène Guermont to perfectly extend *the Obelisk from Luxor* (pic right). It is the only artwork in all history to be erected on Place de la Concorde in Paris and which dialogued with the *Eiffel Tower* (movie).

"Benben" in Heliopolitan Egyptian mythology represents the primordial mound that emerged from Nun, the primordial ocean, and on which the sun appeared for the first time.

BENBEN is the missing peak of *PHARES* and so the pyramidion of the Obelisk from Luxor. Its color is the one of the *Statue of Liberty.* Like its mother work it is a frugal, innovative interactive artwork with a cardiac sensor.

Some quotes

"*BENBEN* reminds us how art and history connect us to each other in unique ways"

Eric Morse, Director at the American Association for State and Local History

"The sensitive artwork *BENBEN* combines Art & Engineering and makes friendship resonate between peoples with the same ambition that inspired Auguste Bartholdi for Liberty Enlightening the World in the port of New York 140 years ago"

Juliette Chevée, Heritage Conservator & Director of the Bartholdi Museum

"*BENBEN*, an artistic and technological work that is part of the great history of artists and engineers.

As Gustave Eiffel's legatee, I am delighted that the Statue of Liberty is closely associated with it"

Philippe Couperie Eiffel, Great-great grandson of Gustave Eiffel

"Milene's artistic work, deeply rooted in an innovative and humanistic approach, makes a remarkable contribution to intercultural dialogue, which is particularly important in the current geopolitical context.

Her ambitious *BENBEN* which aims to connect different communities across the United States and France through art and technology fully illustrates how art has the capacity to forge lasting bonds and reinforce the values of diversity, fraternity, and solidarity"

François Parrain, Head of the Office of International and Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Culture of France

"At a moment marked by division, the *BENBEN* offers a meaningful artistic reflection on shared values of liberty and connection and an opportunity to engage the public in the full American story"

Bradford White, Director at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

About the artist-engineer

The artist-engineer Milène Guermont pushes the limits, touch is key to her work. Her sculptures in Polysensual Concrete react according to the magnetic field of the one who touches them.

BALANCE sparkles at Père Lachaise, *PHARES* lights up on Place de la Concorde, with the Eiffel Tower lighting up in unison (film here).

She was commissioned to create the monument *INSTANTS* to celebrate the end of WWII.

120 talents surpass themselves for the inhabitable total artwork *MAISON GUERMONT*, where everything is art, up to the air we breathe there (open during the *IMMERSIONS*).

Among her latest distinctions: 100 Women of Culture, Jusserand Medal in San Francisco, Forbes Woman 2025, Knight of the National Order of Merit (by the French Minister of Sustainability with an official speech by the President of the J. Paul Getty Trust).

Her two latest solo-shows took place in the Louis Vuitton Foundation and in the Grand Palais Immersif. Her monographic book-object PLEASE TOUCH tells 20 years of creation with texts by 30 authors more than 500 visuals.

"Milène's magical work takes us into new worlds, where she makes us feel at home even as we feel a sense of wonder "

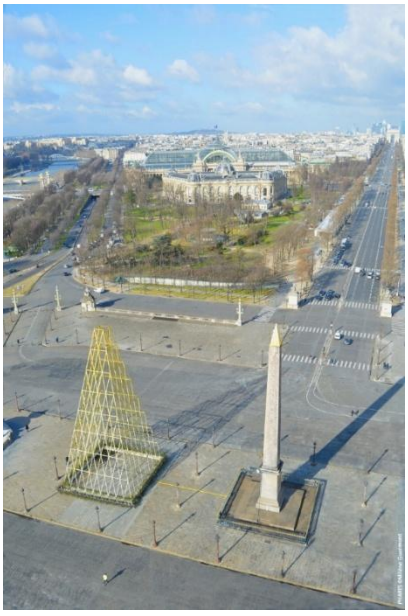
Katherine E. Fleming, President-CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles, 2025.

"For me, Milène Guermont's artwork is truly multidisciplinary.

What I appreciate in her work is that there really is this aesthetic that cuts across all cultures"

Xavier Rey, Director of the Musée national d'art moderne at Centre Pompidou, 2025

Expert views here



PHARES visuals here

BENBEN visuals here

Press launch: October 30, 2026, 4 pm, Liberty State Park, Jersey City. Artist available onsite for interviews.
Press breakfast: November 24, 10 am, *MAISON GUERMONT*, Paris.
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