



Mouna Andraos (left) and Melissa Mongiat. Photo Olivier Blouin



5 Favourites

Hangout Jean-Talon Market, Les Étoffes store
Area Little Italy, Mile End
Location Mount Royal
Souvenir Bagels, local jams from Preservation Society
Montreal in three words Mountain, river, friends (Andraos); food, music, life (Mongiat)



Memorama invited people to create virtual postcards.



21 Balancoires turned swings into a musical instrument.



Museum of Possibilities asked members of the public to share their dreams in a field full of balloons.

Everyday Hijackers

Daily Tous Les Jours is on a mission to engage and empower fellow Montrealers.

Words Hans Ibelings

Swings that produce music, an outdoor projection of the year's 365 newspaper headlines for viewers to edit and change, an epic sing-along – Daily Tous Les Jours creates all sorts of public-space interventions in an attempt to engage and empower citizens. Many of these projects are situated in Montreal, where the studio is based, but events and installations by partners Melissa Mongiat and Mouna Andraos can be found from London to Minnesota. Most are temporary, but recently the women have been moving into longer-lasting interventions. A Friday lunch in the Mile End district of Montreal offered insights into their ideas and ideals.

Tell me about the name. Melissa Mongiat: It took a while before we had it. The name reflects our fascination with the everyday,

which we try to hijack in our projects by disrupting people's habits and expectations. **How would you describe your work?** MM: That's a difficult one. When we give a lecture at a landscape-architecture conference, we sometimes hear remarks like: 'Now I get it; you make landscape architecture.' Mouna Andraos: But we like to say that we make interactive public environments. We are sometimes asked to do things we think architects or urban planners should do, and I'm bothered by that, because there's so much we don't know about their work. **Is Montreal a good place for your interactive public environments?** MA: It's a place with opportunities . . . MM: . . . and it's a laboratory on the right scale. The city hosts many cultural events and festivals, so there's a demand for the type

of projects we do – and a public ready to participate in them. **What's next for Daily Tous Les Jours?** MM: Sustainability. If you look at the cost of temporary projects, you see that it's worthwhile to ask what's left of the investment after the show is gone. MA: With more permanent things, maintenance and running costs become important, especially in terms of technology. Obviously, we don't want our projects to become relics of technologies that have become obsolete. **Your projects often seem light-hearted and playful. How does this relate to your ambition to be disruptive?** MM: We're aware of the fine line between the two, and we realize that some of our projects might be too upbeat. But we want to activate public space. And we're



optimists. We believe in the possibility of exchange and meeting in public space, and our ultimate goal is to achieve participation. MA: We are seeking new ways to engage people and to get them out of their comfort zone. We hope our work sparks their imagination and gives them ideas about what you can do *in* the city and *with* the city. _ dailytouslesjours.com