



Above – Nicole Salgar, *Los Senderos*, acrylic paint, 50 x 10 m, Bègles, 2023. © DAVIDS VISUALS

Following page, up, left – Saddo, *Tribute to Mozaïq*, acrylic paint, 14 x 11 m, Montréal (CA), 2022. © LOUIS HOMEL

Following page, up, right – JKing, acrylic paint, 600m², Bègles (FR), 2023. © DAVIDS VISUALS

Following page, down – JKing, acrylic paint, 4 x 2 m, Bègles (FR), 2023. © DAVIDS VISUALS

The festival then returned to Montreal, to Rue Sainte-Catherine, with the mission to democratise muralism, embellish the area for the locals and revitalise the commercial artery. The selected artists, who were "representative of the plurality and diversity of the village", had to create works that captured the identity and energy of the district, following the theme of inclusivity. The 11x15m work of the multidisciplinary artist Doras invited viewers to embrace and celebrate our differences. Romanian artist Saddo paid tribute to the LGBT community of his home country, while Canadian Urban Artist Nikki Küntzie imagined a lavish garden where flowers had human faces, as a joyful celebration of community life.

Urban village

This time, the festival is three-fold and in partnership with the architecture studio Nadau. The first part took



place from 6 to 16 April 2023; the second is scheduled for 1 to 15 October 2023, and the last one in October 2024. Nicole Salgar was among the artists invited this spring to create in the Terres Neuves district on the theme of colour. A painter from Miami, she made a monumental 500m² mural on a building with 73 windows, a technical constraint that did not seem to scar the artist. As for Bordalo II, an expert in trash art and keen on recycled materials of all kinds, he created a gigantic hippopotamus with rubbish bins and children's toys (among other things). Urban and plastic artist JKing from Martinique turned a 600m² basketball court into a work of art. The piece was painted directly on the ground with the participation of the local youth. It was only a few years ago that JKing worked as a volunteer for the festival "to help street artists paint their walls in the streets of Fort-de-France." Passionate about art, and always looking for new challenges, he likes to experiment with new media, "to find the one that will excite me the most. The organisers of *MilMurs* have offered me ever bigger projects. Today, I keep trying to diversify my modes of expression by intervening in different contexts, like with the basketball court in Bègles where I wanted to propose a colourful and contrasting composition based on the opposites warm/cold, sun/moon." The immensely large and the infinitely small thus come together. "A work that speaks of contrast and complementarity, of connections and moments that bring together the things and the people we thought were in opposition. Adversity and energy here rhyme with intensity." ■

