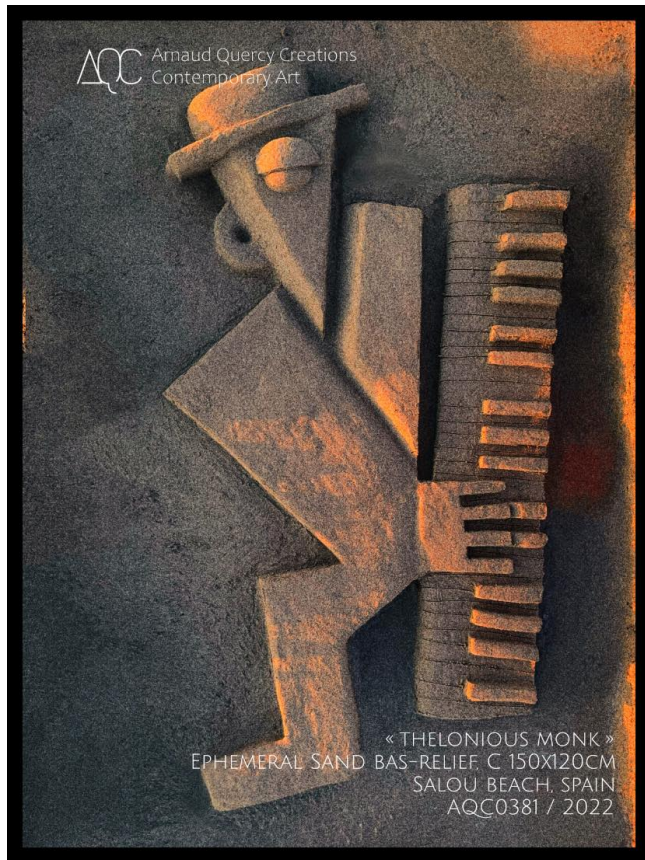


# Thelonious Monk

Arnaud Quercy



*A jazz giant rendered in sand, alive for one tide—then gone forever.*

MEDIUM	Sand on Beach
DIMENSIONS	120.0×150.0×10.0cm
YEAR	2022
ORIGIN	Spain
REFERENCE	Arnaud Quercy Creations / AQC0381 / 2022
NOT FOR SALE	Artist's studio
CERTIFICATE	20221231-0051

## CURATORIAL NOTES

This ephemeral sand bas-relief pays tribute to jazz legend Thelonious Monk through sculptural form shaped directly on Salou Beach, Spain. Created during a five-day open-air exhibition in August 2022, the work translates Monk's improvisational spirit into carved sand, capturing the musician's iconic silhouette—his trademark hat and angular features—alongside abstracted piano

keys that anchor the composition's lower register. The piece existed briefly before the tide reclaimed it, making impermanence itself part of the work's meaning.

Warm earth tones dominate the surface, with deep grays and blacks creating the figure's shadowed contours while burnt sienna and orange highlights catch the Mediterranean light along raised edges. The monumental scale of 150 × 120 cm allowed Quercy to work with bold, simplified forms visible from a distance while rewarding closer inspection with textured detail. Sand's natural granularity produces soft transitions between light and shadow, giving the relief a quality distinct from permanent sculptural media.

The work belongs to the Untamed Creations collection, which documents Quercy's explorations beyond traditional studio practice. As one of two jazz portraits created during the Salou exhibition—alongside a companion piece honoring Charlie Parker—"Thelonious Monk" demonstrates how bas-relief techniques adapt to unconventional materials. The sculpture's deliberate destruction by tidal action connects it to traditions of ephemeral art where documentation becomes the lasting artifact rather than the object itself.

The digital documentation (AQC0381) preserves the work through archival photography, serving as the primary record of a piece that no longer physically exists. Certificate of authenticity #20221231-0051 accompanies the documentation. The work carries "not for sale" status, reflecting its nature as a documented performance rather than a collectible object.

## THE ARTIST



### Arnaud Quercy

Arnaud Quercy is a Parisian artist working across painting, music, and sculpture. His practice is grounded in Idealism — the principle that a work of art does not carry meaning, but triggers it. Each piece is engineered to diffract differently through each person who encounters it.

## FROM UNTAMED CREATIONS

Charlie Parker Sand on Beach, 120.0×150.0×10.0cm

NOT FOR SALE : [https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/charlie-parker\\_4b8.html](https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/charlie-parker_4b8.html)

The Woman Reading Sand on Beach, 120.0×150.0×15.0cm NOT FOR SALE

: [https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/the-woman-reading\\_4c0.html](https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/the-woman-reading_4c0.html)

The traveler Sand on Beach, 120.0×150.0×10.0cm NOT FOR SALE :

[https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/the-traveler\\_4au.html](https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/the-traveler_4au.html)

The Sailer Sand on Beach, 120.0×150.0×10.0cm NOT FOR SALE :

[https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/the-sailer\\_4bm.html](https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2022/08/the-sailer_4bm.html)

**View Complete Collection:** <https://artquamanima.com/en/catalog/collection/untamed-creations.html>

---

## DOCUMENTATION

---

**Catalogue Raisonné · AQC0381:** <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0381.html>

---

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

© 2022 Arnaud Quercy

Published by: Art Quam Anima Paris — [publishing.artquamanima.com](https://publishing.artquamanima.com)

Date of publication: 2026-04-26

Persistent URI: <https://publishing.artquamanima.com/en/catalogs/2022/08/thelonious-monk-4ce.pdf>