



Mathieu TARDY



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• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Mathieu TARDY is a stonemason. He set up his sculpture studio in Téremba in 2012 and creates artworks to order for individuals and institutions. Mathieu designs a variety of items such as dishes, bowls, mortars, basins and even jewellery such as pendants.



Three major commissions have made Mathieu Tardy a key figure on the New Caledonian arts scene. After creating the Canadian Friars commemorative stone and the Kiwanis Memorial in Bourail, Mathieu sculpted four identical dolphins, each nearly one metre high, to adorn the iconic Céleste Fountain on Place des Cocotiers when it was restored in 2017.



• BACKGROUND

Born in Paris, Mathieu has always been passionate about architecture. He studied for a CAP diploma in stonemasonry and then, in 2002, gained a BP professional certificate in historic monuments. For three years, he followed evening classes at the Paris Art Workshops and then worked on various prestigious construction projects in the Paris area. He caught the eye of sculptor Jean Marie Fiori and worked as his assistant on animal busts in alabaster.



He came to New Caledonia in 2005, where he quickly made a name for himself and worked on several building projects: stone-cutting for Maison Fayard in Dumbea, the post office at Fort Téremba, historic Nouville Bakery and the Maison des Nawa façade at Trianon.

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Mathieu is quiet and self-contained; he works with dedication and passion, using local stones such as bluestone, Noumea limestone, mauve marble from Koumac and jade from the Blue River. “New Caledonia is blessed with a lavish profusion of natural stones” he says. Mathieu feels a close bond with nature and natural stones are often the inspiration for his work. His artworks are on permanent display at the Andemic Art Gallery in Noumea.

“Today, nature with all its vulnerability is all around me and I strive to endow it with strength by sublimating it” he says.