

The Elzévir Apartment Newsletter

December 7, 2022



Just a few months after my August trip, I returned to Paris solo again for a three+ week visit. For Feb/March 2023, I have a five week stay planned as I glide into my new TBD chapter and wind down my technology consulting. Ineke will join me finally, albeit for just two weeks as she continues to focus on <https://ministryofscent.com>.

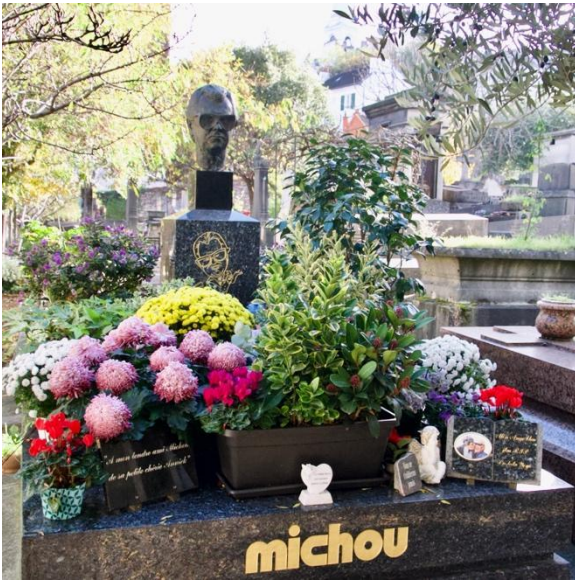
The days were much cooler and shorter than in August, however the low sun provided a nice contrast throughout the day for photography, allowing for a broader range of images.



One cool Sunday evening at 6 pm, I went to the Jardin des Plantes for their “Mini-monde” exhibit (<https://www.jardindesplantesdeparis.fr/fr/programme/galeries-jardins-zoo-bibliotheques/mini-mondes-voie-d-illumination-4349>). The entrance says you are being “shrunk” and I felt tiny among the giant insects and plants, which shined brightly in the dark.



Even with the cooler weather I used the rediscovered Velib bikes on a few outings including one to the somewhat hidden Saint Vincent cemetery in Montmartre, thanks to Richard Nahem of Eye Prefer Paris’s suggestion (<https://www.ipreferparis.net/2022/11/saint-vincent-cemetery-part-1.html>). The cemetery is the final resting spot of a number of French celebrities including Michou and has many artful tombstones and at least one wandering cat.



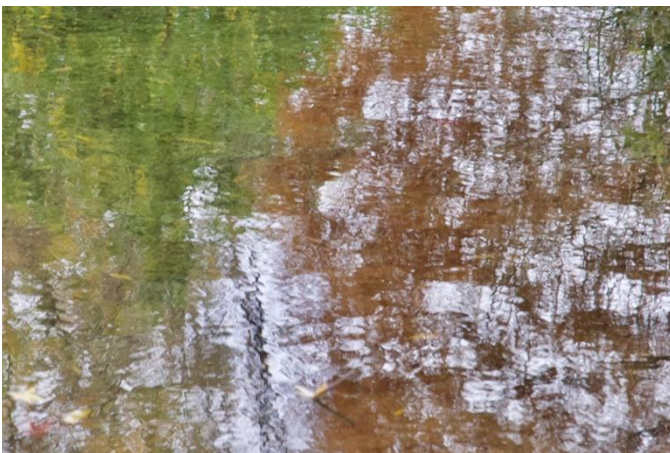
As the weather dropped below 40F, I shifted to buses and metros using the Navigo Easy pass that I purchased years ago. On your next visit make sure to pick one up for 2 euros as the paper tickets are ending soon. You can recharge the Navigo Easy with virtual carnets at the kiosks before you enter the metro.



Thanks to the “Paris Sausage Walk”, I discovered a new bus line (#72) that goes along rue de Rivoli at the end of rue Vieille du Temple and continues along the Seine. This dog walk comprised over 300 teckels (i.e. dachshunds) walking from Pont Mirabeau to the Eiffel tower all along the Seine. Our good friend Kathy has a dachshund named Peanut, and asked me to take some photos. There’s a surprising variety of dachshunds, and you can see more of them on Bonjour Paris (<https://bonjourparis.com/tag/paris-vignettes/>) in an upcoming article if you’re interested. The key for good dog photography is to get down low (ouch). Next time we hope there will be a Westinade (Westie + balade)!



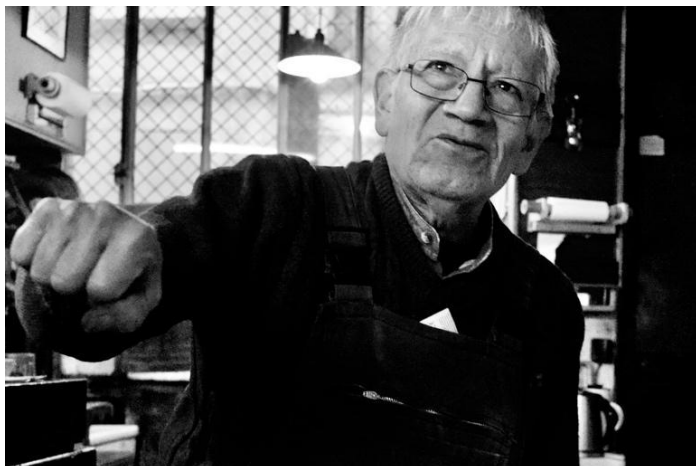
Inspired by other friends who recently stayed at our apartment, I revisited the Louis Vuitton museum to see the Monet-Mitchell exhibit. I re-enjoyed the architecture of the museum too, and took a relaxing walk through the Jardin d'Acclimatation (reminder to self: a ticket to the Louis Vuitton includes an entry into the park. If you do the inverse, you end up paying an extra 7 euros for the park). Thanks to the exhibit, I captured some Monet-Mitchell inspired photos in the park.



Other museum adventures included visits to the nearby Musée Carnavalet, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Musée Art Moderne and the hidden Musée Mobilier National.



As mentioned in previous newsletters, I love taking walking tours with Patrick Bezzolato (<https://www.offi.fr/visites-conferences/patrick-bezzolato-5333.html>), whose French is impeccably clear. Patrick is also friends with Leonard Pitt in Berkeley who has published several books of his adventures wandering around Paris. During this balade in Belleville, Patrick did an spontaneous visit to the gravure atelier of his friend Raoul from Mexico. It was a wonderful chance to take some interesting photos of artists at work.



In local updates, La Petite Place across the street from us reopened and it looks like the new restaurant at Le Seigné should open by spring. My favorite clothing store, Adolpho Dominguez, moved a couple of blocks away to 17 rue Pavée, and a new clothing store is under construction in its old digs on rue Elzévir. On nearby rue Barbette, an eco-friendly clothing store called LOOM has opened. A little further away, several boutiques opened at the newly-refurbished Gendarmerie across from Le Petit Italien. Nice that the building was converted to low-income housing (HLM) in such a beautiful manner. If you have a chance, it's worth walking into the large courtyard and visiting the Jardin Arnaud Beltrame.

During my wanderings, I saw a pandemic photo exhibit called the "Covid Diaries", which documents life during lockdown in Paris. It made me think of doing a similar exhibit about the lockdown in San Francisco. A brief set of those photos can be seen at this link -

<https://www.harveymilkphoto.com/virtual-gallery/beauty-of-impermanence/>.

As some of you know by now, I publish a subset of my best images each trip in my Vignettes series on Bonjour Paris (<https://bonjourparis.com/tag/paris-vignettes/>).

Warmest wishes,

Bill (and definitely Ineke next time!)

Never hesitate to contact me at bill@elzevir.net



