



# “Triumph” Basketball Court Artistic Resurfacing

Montreal, QC, Canada



## Project **Information**

Project category:  
Sports Facilities

Year of construction:  
2023

Year of MAPEI involvement:  
2023

MAPEI coordinator:  
Julie Paré

Project owner:  
City of Montreal

General contractor:  
ASHOP Productions

Installer:  
Fluke Art

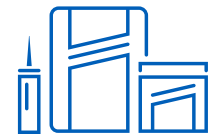
Artist:  
Fluke

Photographer:  
ASHOP Productions



## Project **Overview**

When it comes to style, quality and durability, MAPEI Sports System technology passes the test with flying colors, bringing world-renowned urban artist Fluke's vibrant concept to life on an outdoor basketball court.



## Products Used

**Mapecoat™ TNS Finish 3** [NA]



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## TRIUMPH: A Splash of Enduring Inspiration

There’s a new splash of color for inner-city neighborhood kids to shoot hoops on in Montreal.

Located in the Saint-Michel district of Montreal, Quebec, MAPEI technology has left its colorful, durable mark on the basketball court in a work called “Triumph” in Champdoré Park. The outdoor, hardcourt surface now sports a veritable rainbow of hues, thanks to MAPEI’s proprietary Sports System technology, and by Fluke (www.flukeart.ca), the world-famous Montreal urban artist who came up with an ambitious project to show off what amazing results it could bring.

“Triumph is a culmination of color exploration and techniques I’d been playing around with for months,” Fluke said in an interview. “What that gave birth to was also the freedom to explore and test products.”

Saint-Michel is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in Montreal and in the province of Quebec. Italians, Haitians, Arabs, Asians, Hispanics as well as people of French descent (Québécois) represent the major ethnic groups abiding in the area, just across town from the school where basketball’s inventor, James Naismith, once taught athletics (McGill University).

### A community in need of a boost

“The court was in very bad shape; kids were refusing to play on it,” Fluke said about what he saw when he first visited the original asphalt court in 2022. “This is not a wealthy community; it’s

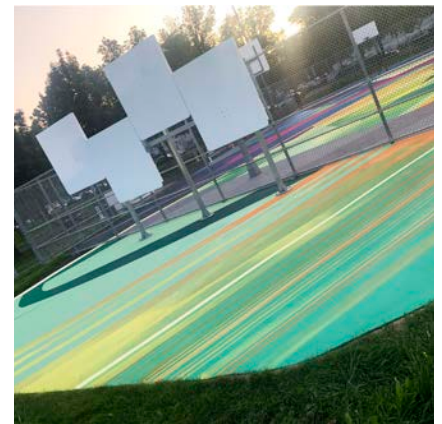
a marginalized community that lives there.”

At the time, the city of Montreal was embarking on several rejuvenation projects in neighborhood parks across the island city, and local officials asked Fluke if **Mapecoat TNS Finish 3** [NA] was something he could use. “MAPEI sent some samples (through Sales Representative Julie Paré, who served as MAPEI coordinator on the project) and we tested it in the studio. We beat it up, we stepped on it... And we said: ‘We can use this!’” Fluke said. “I had to agree, it’s a great product.”

As owner of #ashop (www.ashop.ca), Fluke was no stranger to experimenting with products for exterior murals. “I have over 500 productions under my belt. I’ve been around for a long time doing what I do. In the 1990s I was part of that first wave of urban artists (in Montreal). I’ve had to innovate to get these murals done,” he said, speaking of installations as far away as Hong Kong and New Zealand, and as close to home as the LaSalle neighborhood in Montreal where he was raised.

“After years using various paints, at one point we started using epoxy coatings, and it was no different when Montreal approached us about this project,” Fluke said.

“This project is very special. The city allowed me to have pretty much complete freedom. Triumph is an abstract piece. It’s about movement that contrasts between hot and cold (as in “hot” colors and “cold” colors). As



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an artist I was able to take those risks,” he said, referring to the initial design, which, true to his signature style, was brilliantly rich in color, with bold, sweeping strokes that were mapped out to “within an inch.”

## MAPEI on the job

*Mapecoat TNS Finish 3* is a flexible, acrylic topcoat certified by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). It is used on indoor and outdoor surfaces for tennis, pickleball and basketball courts as well as for multipurpose areas.

The city had already seen fit to prepare the repaved surface, including the application of a suitable, cured basecoat for the *Mapecoat TNS Professional* system in the late Springtime of 2023 when Fluke and his assistants set to work on the actual installation. Tools for applying the pre-tinted *Mapecoat TNS Finish 3* included brooms, squeegees, brushes and even modified spray applicators. “We got to learn how the product reacts. We extended the working time with techniques (that we developed ourselves in testing),” Fluke boasted.

“There was a mixing station. We had buckets and buckets out, the same way as a painter using his palette. We had maybe six different greens, four different blues – these dark, rich colors. It’s a very flexible product. It allows you to play, and that flexibility is very important when you’re doing artwork. Fades can be done (for example),” he said.

“After five weeks of dodging severe rain and tornado warnings (in the summer of 2023), we managed to finish and look back at the final product,” Fluke said. “This is a project where there is a traditional process of designing something, sending it back and forth with the city. Aside from the prep work, there was a lot of workshops with kids to introduce to the artform. We

worked with La Maison d’Haïti (French for “Haiti House”), a local cultural center. We brought the kids to the park and did some creative workshops, introducing them to street art. We wanted the kids to take ownership of the work,” he said.



## MAPEI quality and durability

“It’s taking such a beating so quick. I’ve supervised painting projects on concrete before. None of the paints we used in the past would work for more than one season. We knew it would take a beating, with kids and bikes and spilled drinks. It’s huge that this is so durable,” Fluke said.

“These guys are aggressive ball players; the court is full every single day,” Fluke added. It was those same kids who inspired Fluke to give it the name Triumph – “I wanted a powerful name to complement what they’re doing.”

Between its vibrant multi-ethnic spirit and the dazzling new basketball court surface in Champdoré Park, Saint-Michel might just be the most colorful neighborhood in Montreal, both culturally and now, literally.

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