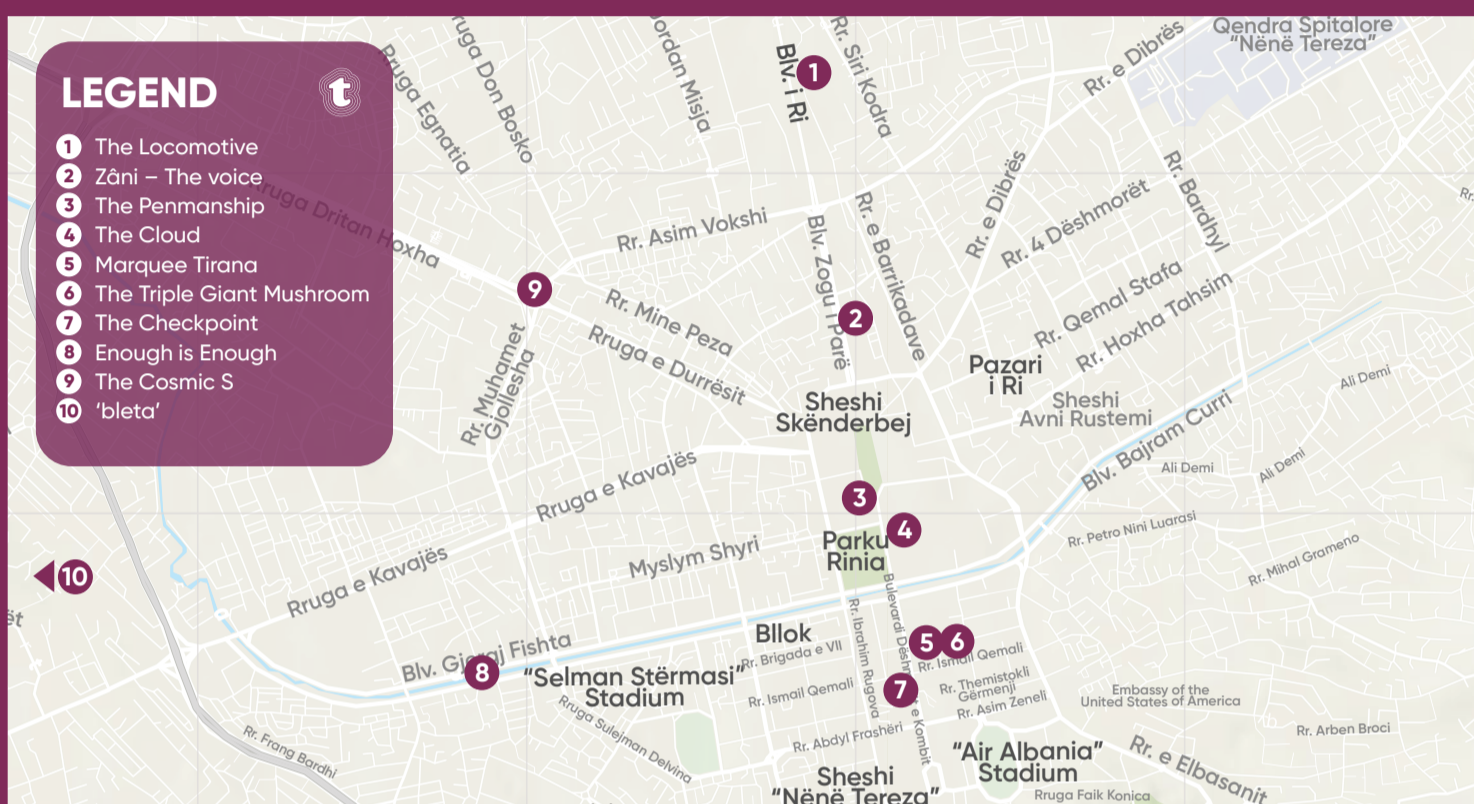


# The Contemporary Art Itinerary



## 1 The Steam Locomotive 02 – The Locomotive

The Locomotive is situated in the New Boulevard area, at the former location of the first train station in Tirana. It represents an interesting work of art related to the collective memory of the capital city and symbolizes the emotions of people who worked in it, a nostalgia not only for Tirana, but for all of Albania.

It was produced in Poland, in 1951, and it was put into operation in Albania on the same year. Its last round is believed to have taken place in 1986. Five of its "sisters" ended up getting melted down at the Metallurgical Plant of Elbasan. The idea and its restoration were an initiative of Hemingway Fan Club Association.



## 2 Zâni – The voice

Zâni is a sculptural installation of very large dimensions, reaching 16 m in height and width, it is heavy and has a monumental volume. It consists of a combination of iron pipes of different sizes, which seem to hold each other in a suspended mode due to the way light interacting with them.

Zâni is the figurative version of a group of trees whose branches intertwine to provide shade for the passers-by, at the same time letting them enjoy the infiltration of sunlight or the lineation of contours bent by the light of night.

**Author:** Sculptor Sadik Spahija  
**Address:** Zog I Boulevard



## 3 The Penmanship

The Penmanship, was created by Adrian Paci and is located between the two ministries and opposite the Orthodox Cathedral. The work was created in 2020, but comes as evidence of a reflection on a childhood experience. It represents a school bench and two brass sheets resting on it. On the first page, there are some childlike notes, which are not words yet, but the starting point of future articulation. On the other side, there are some beautifully written phrases can be read: Tirana is our capital city; Our beloved leaders live in Tirana; Tirana is flourishing day by day. The two sheets on the bench stand as evidence of two different moments in time; one before and one after.

**Address:** Dëshmorët e Kombit (The Martyrs of the Nation) Boulevard.



## 4 The Cloud

One of the most famous works of public art installation, The Cloud, designed by the celebrated Japanese artist, Sou Fujimoto, has been installed in front of the Art Gallery in Tirana. The pavilion is intended as a free social space and consequently Fujimoto has described it as a transparent terrain, a delicate, three-dimensional structure where each unit is composed of steel rods. This well-known work can be visited by the public of the capital city and foreign visitors, combined with a calendar of activities organized by the Municipality of Tirana.

**Address:** Dëshmorët e Kombit (The Martyrs of the Nation) Boulevard.



## 5 Marquee Tirana

This work of art, a gift to the Albanian people by the French artist Philippe Parreno who lives and works in Paris, was produced by him in 2015. Marquee Tirana/Markiza Tiranë 2015, is a shelter-like structure consisting of neon, fluorescent lights and chains and illuminates the entrance of the Prime Minister's Office, which has opened its doors to the public with COD.

Since 2006, Parreno has created light works resembling the type of lighted sheltering or tents displayed in old-fashioned theaters and cinemas. Functioning as wordless signs or labels, these illuminated shelters are often found at the entrances of museums and art centres, where they seem to invite attendees not for a visit, but to see the show itself.

**Address:** Prime Minister's Office Building, The Martyrs of the Nation Boulevard.



## 6 The Triple Giant Mushroom

The Triple Giant Mushroom installation, specifically designed for the space near the Prime Minister's Office, hints at the idea of the knowledge that humanity has created and continues to develop. Accordingly, this work of art refers to the possibility of the presence of an existing or newly created alternative culture, which manages to convey endless possibilities or divisions.

The Triple Giant Mushroom looks like a three-dimensional collage made up of three small mushrooms: two-quarters of each sculpture replicates the appearance of two mushrooms, Cortinarius Orellanus (poisonous) and coral mushrooms (edible).

This work of art, a gift for the Albanian people, was created by the Belgian artist Carsten Höller.

**Address:** Dëshmorët e Kombit (The Martyrs of the Nation) Boulevard



## 7 The Checkpoint

This memorial commemorates the victims of the communist regime in Albania. It includes a part of the Berlin wall, a mushroom-shaped bunker, and some pillars from the Spaç infamous prison.

The 2.6 tons wall partly covered by graffiti is a gift by the city of Berlin. The concrete pillars come from the Spaç mine where many opponents of the communist regime were held prisoners and sentenced to forced labor. While the bunker was there to guard the main entrance of the residential Block separated from the rest of the city.

The memorial is the work of writer and former political dissident Fatos Lubonja and painter Ardian Isufi.

**Address:** Dëshmorët e Kombit (The Martyrs of the Nation) Boulevard



## 8 Enough is Enough

Enough is Enough is a work of public art by Alban Muja, that was born out of the statement of President George W. Bush during his visit to Tirana in 2007: "The time has come, and as soon as possible, to say "Enough!" (Enough is enough!), Kosovo is independent!"

The first of its kind for contemporary artist Muja, this work is an iron sculpture which, like a bridge, connects the two banks of the Lana River in one of the most urban areas of the capital city. The work, that resembles more of a sculpture than an installation consisting of the letters forming the phrase "Enough Is Enough", is about 15 meters long and each letter is 1.8 meters tall.

The art work Enough Is Enough is an echo of the situation of every refugee in the world today.

**Address:** At the pedestrian bridge over Lana River, facing OSHEE.



## 9 The Cosmic S

Designed by Helidon Xhixha, this 13.5 m tall decorative sculpture symbolizes the image and the new life that the capital city of Albania is currently experiencing. The Cosmic S was sculpted in stainless steel and weighs about 1300 kg.

The work consists of two irregular pyramids carefully balancing each other, reflecting two different approaches, both essential for the co-existing in a society that wants to thrive in a world where its own people and the different cultures they represent are very related. It denotes the fact that Tirana has become a symbol of a new Albania, with an influx of excellent architectural projects, cultural centres of interest, avant-garde restaurants and fashionable bars.

**Address:** Karl Topia Square



## 10 'bleta' (bee)

'bleta' ('bee' in English) is installed at a former landfill, now a green space covered in grass and young trees. Similarly, 'bleta' seems to be an old broken window, but is in fact an all bronze sculpture, masterly worked to look as a ready-made one.

Sislej does not consider garbage as waste, but as an artifact of a common narration of the city, a value, a fragment of the continuous cycle of life (and death): nothing is ever lost, but only transformed.

A bee may well seem a trascurable, unbeautiful, little insect, and yet, they are an irreplaceable part of life's cycle, all life: bees die and we die.

'bleta' is not the end of the story, nor the beginning. It is the process.

**Author:** Sislej Xhafa

**Address:** At the gates of the Tirana's waste treatment area

