

DOMAINE DU MUY

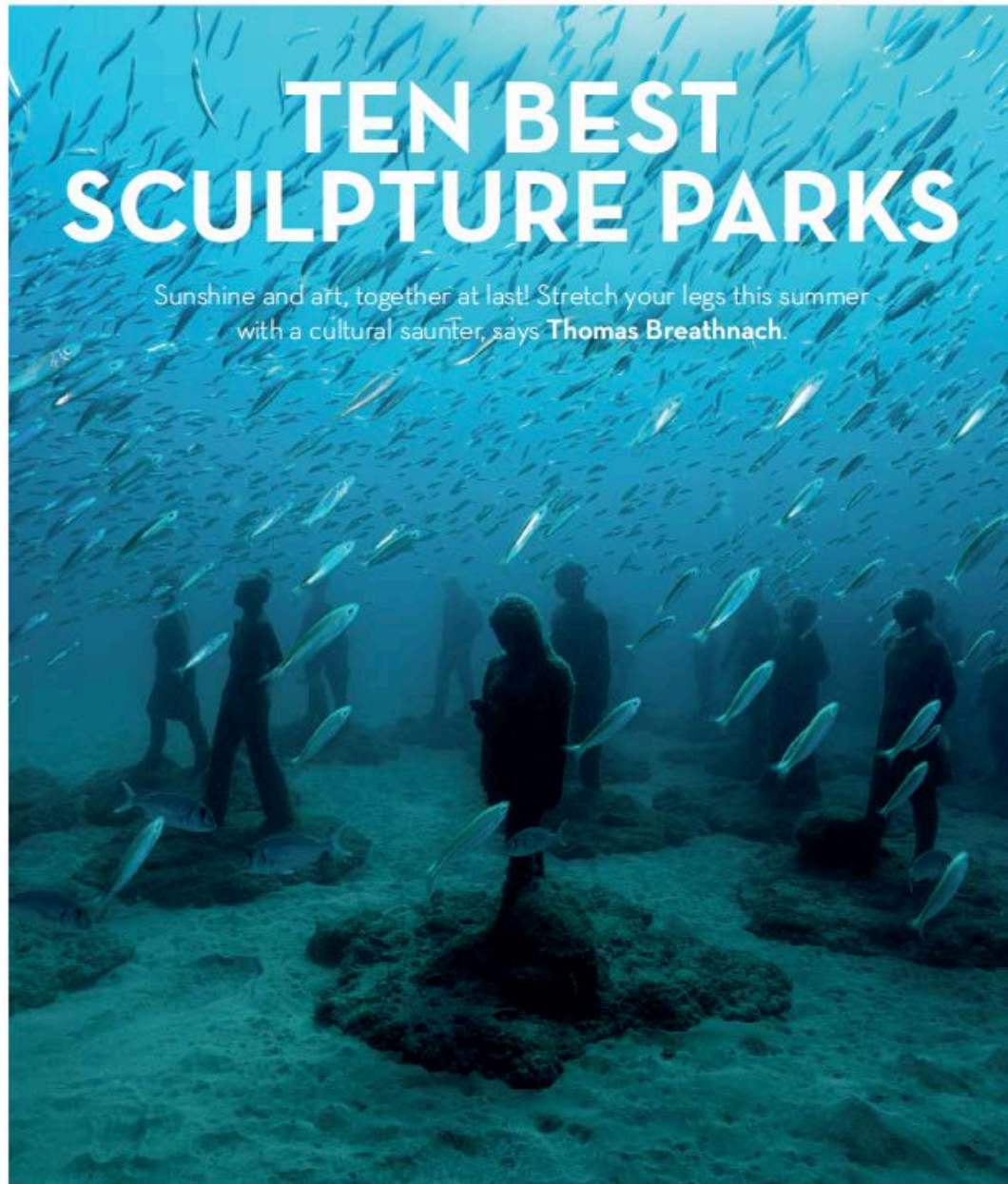
PARC DE SCULPTURES CONTEMPORAINES  
CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE PARK

CARA MAGAZINE  
JUNE 2019  
THOMAS BREATHNACH

cara

# TEN BEST SCULPTURE PARKS

Sunshine and art, together at last! Stretch your legs this summer with a cultural saunter, says **Thomas Breathnach**.



JASON DECAIRES/THE COMMISSIONER AT MUSEO ATLANTICO LANZAROTE

## 1 CANARY ISLANDS MUSEO ATLÁNTICO LANZAROTE

The first sculpture park in Europe to dive into the deep, Museo Atlántico is an underwater expo of 300 human-sized sculptures, dramatically sunken along Lanzarote's Bahía de Las Coloradas. But Jason deCaires Taylor, their mastermind sculptor, has imagined art with purpose here. His figures not only question our relationship with the ocean, they also replicate natural reef habitats, offering refuge for native marine life from sponges to rainbow rays. To ponder both art and fauna, you'll need to scuba-dive to the museum with the aid of a local certified instructor. Don't forget to pack an underwater camera kit. [cact Lanzarote.com](http://cact Lanzarote.com)

Aer Lingus flies daily from Dublin to **Lanzarote** 12 times per week and from Cork thrice weekly.

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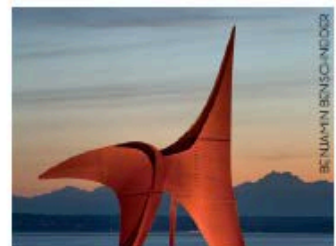


JERRY L. THOMPSON

## 2 USA STORM KING ART PARK NEW YORK

Nestled in the boho stronghold of New York's trending Hudson Valley, Storm King Art Park is itself a kingdom of contemporary art, blanketing 200 hectares of dreamy Upstate meadowland. As America's largest sculpture project, the park celebrates large-scale works (from the ilk of Roy Lichtenstein) where visitors wander, hike, or even rent bikes to explore this safari of sculpture. Thinking picnic? Both the park's artisanal café and food-truck provide the perfect basket-fillers, from free-range pork carnitas to cucumber seltzer. [stormking.org](http://stormking.org)

Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to **New York JFK** twice daily and from Shannon six times per week.



BENJAMIN BENSON/REDAUX



## 3 ITALY PARCO DEI MOSTRI LAZIO

One of Europe's original sculpture parks, Parco dei Mostri (Park of Monsters), located an hour north of Rome, has been welcoming the artistic hoi polloi since the 1500s. Built by aristocrat and arts patron Vicino Orsini, the park occupies a magically Medieval setting between the family's historic castle and (given the summer swelter) mercifully thick woodland. Under its canopy, you'll discover a cast of moss-shrouded colossuses, from dragons to goddesses, all united by the common thread of *amore e arte*. [sacrobosco.it](http://sacrobosco.it)

Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to **Rome** twice daily.

## 4 USA OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK SEATTLE

Once a gritty backwater of Seattle's waterfront, today Olympic Sculpture Park is the city's largest downtown park, offering Seattleites and their visitors an open-air artistic haven. The Z-shaped, green-belt of contemporary artworks, interspersed with native redwoods and aspens, zig-zags for 700 metres from city bustle to the Puget Sound. Come summer, the kunst + nature fusion really kicks in, with activities from art workshops to yoga, all with the backdrop of the Olympic Mountains. Exhale! [seattleartmuseum.org](http://seattleartmuseum.org)

Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to **Seattle** five times per week.

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## 5 USA DECORDOVA SCULPTURE PARK AND MUSEUM MASSACHUSETTS

New Englanders celebrate their art almost as much as the Red Sox – poster child in point being the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum located in Boston's western 'burbs. Visit before September 2019 and the park will be celebrating its New England biennial with the spotlight on artists from the regional states of Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine and New Hampshire. Expect a kaleidoscopic homage to Northeastern sculptors, all framed by landscaped lawns surrounding postcard Flint Pond. [decordova.org](http://decordova.org)

Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to **Boston** twice daily and from Shannon daily.



## 6 IRELAND LOUGH BOORA CO OFFALY

It would be difficult to curate a starker backdrop for an art park than the haunting boglands of Ireland's midlands. But Lough Boora, set on an ancient Mesolithic site near the town of Tullamore, offers a masterclass in stewardship. Tapping into the region's rich peat-harvesting heritage, exhibits such as the abandoned wagons of "Sky Train" and the steel arcs of "Cycles" woo visitors with earthy industrial edge. There are nature-inspired wonders, too: "Bog Track" is a man-made blackened tree grove, created from millennia-old bog oak. [loughboora.com](http://loughboora.com)

## 7 FRANCE DOMAINE DU MUY PROVENCE

Set in the sirocco-swept wilds of Provence scrubland, Domaine du Muy models the perfect mélange of art and nature. That's what park director Edward Mitterrand (great-nephew of France's former President François Mitterrand) was shooting for too. The park's collection of contemporary *objets d'art* were selected to offer the most arresting contrast to one of France's most hostile landscapes. Think the gilded apple of Claude Lorraine, bursting out of the earth like Pop Art in motion, as its real tour de force. [domainedumuy.com](http://domainedumuy.com)

Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to **Nice** 11 times per week and from Cork twice weekly.



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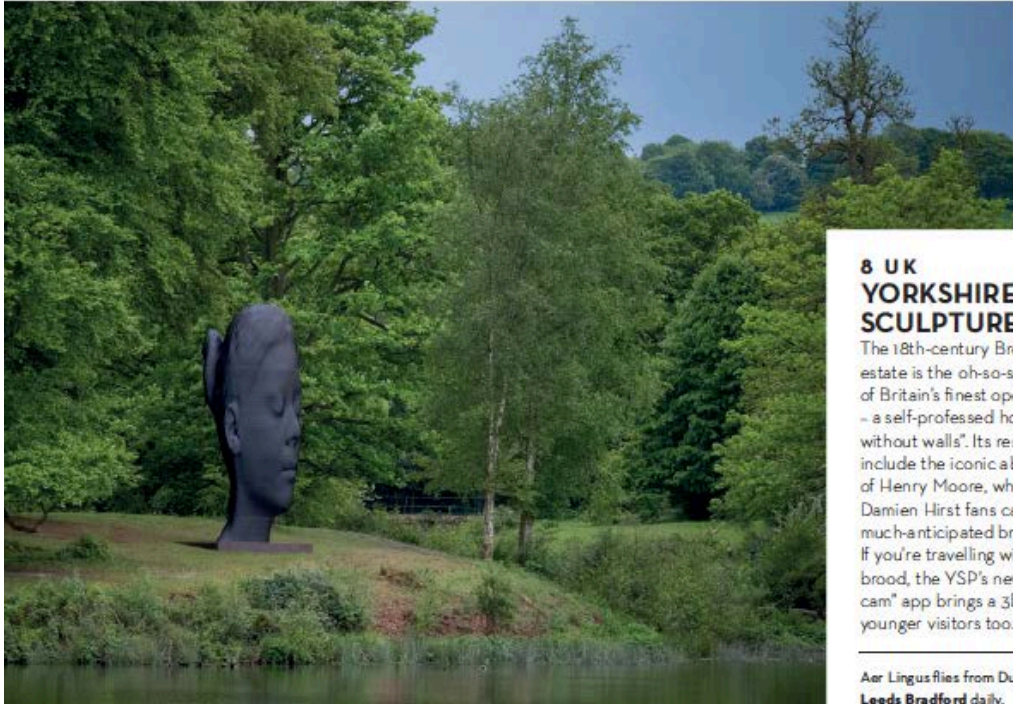
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## 8 UK YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

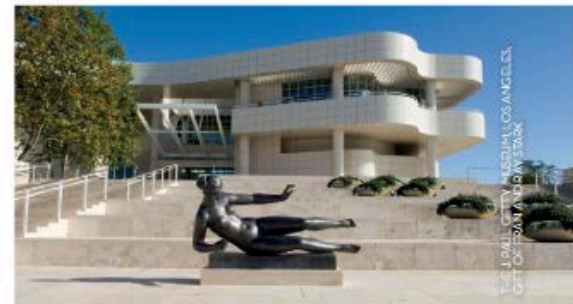
The 18th-century Bretton Hall estate is the oh-so-splendid canvas of Britain's finest open-air gallery – a self-professed homestay to "art without walls". Its resident highlights include the iconic abstract figures of Henry Moore, while this summer, Damien Hirst fans can gush at his much-anticipated bronze collection. If you're travelling with a tech-savvy brood, the YSP's new "sculpture cam" app brings a 3D dimension for younger visitors too. [y.sp.org.uk](http://y.sp.org.uk)

Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to Leeds Bradford daily.

## 9 USA MINNEAPOLIS SCULPTURE PARK MINNESOTA

Billboarded as the largest urban sculpture park in the world, the brief of the Minneapolis Sculpture Park was to bring an architectural gallery space into the heart of the cityscape. The result is a bold, contemporary statement of works that deliberately contrast with the park's prim Renaissance gardens and surrounding skyline. Looking for the ultimate aesthetic? "Spoonbridge and Cherry Fountain" is the park's most iconic sculpture and well worth the line of Instagrammers. [walkerart.org](http://walkerart.org)

Aer Lingus will fly from Dublin to Minneapolis-St Paul six times per week from July 1 and daily from August.



## 10 USA FRAN AND RAY STARK SCULPTURE GARDEN LOS ANGELES

With its blockbuster SoCal setting between the Santa Monica Mountains and Downtown Los Angeles, this opus of the iconic Getty Museum arrives thanks to the donated collection of legendary film producer Ray Stark and his wife, Fran. The 28 sculptures include the works of Elisabeth Frink and Isamu Noguchi and, rather than forcing any fusion with the park's setting, the museum landscaped bespoke gardens (think dreamy agapanthus beds) to complement each individual piece. [getty.edu](http://getty.edu)

Aer Lingus flies from Dublin to Los Angeles daily.

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