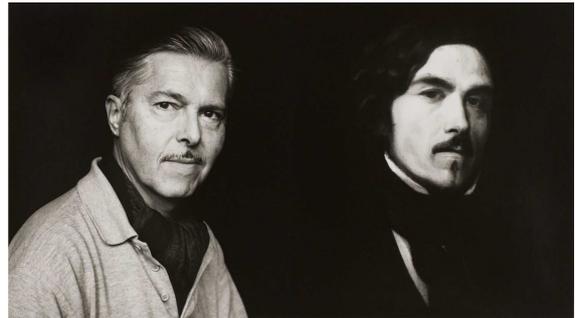


# Vis-à-vies

## Photographs by Thomas Bilanges

Free exhibition-dossier, from 25 April to 29 July 2012  
Connecting Gallery of the Carnavalet Museum

The Carnavalet Museum presents a series of approximately **180 black and white diptychs** created in 2006-2007 by the photographer Thomas Bilanges. This series, produced using an identical process (same framing, same light, same viewpoint) sets portraits of museum officials against a portrait of a painted, drawn, sculpted or photographed character selected by each of them from the collections. The result forms a surprising and moving collection.



*Philippe de Carbonnières - Eugène Delacroix, by E.Callande de Champmartin*  
© Thomas Bilanges/ Carnavalet Museum/ Roger-Viollet

This work, which forms part of personal research by the photographer into the **correspondence between the real and the imaginary**, is original in more than one respect. On a human level, almost all the staff of a major Paris museum, from the security guard to the chief curator, via the trainee and the gardener, agreed to take part. This collection of photographs thus provides a **unique instant in the life of a museum and all those who bring it to life, maintain and promote it on a daily basis**.

The choice of counterpoint work is always striking and these diptychs provide a **contemporary rereading of the "portrait gallery"**, revisited and rethought by the people who are in permanent contact with the works of art. There are many possible ways of reading these images: aesthetically, psychologically, sociologically, culturally, poetically, etc. They invite us to explore the unique collections of a museum dedicated to the history of the capital and its inhabitants and plunge us into the mystery of the complex, intimate relations we have with works of art.

### Exhibition curators

Catherine Tambrun and Françoise Reynaud, Photography Department of the Carnavalet Museum

### Carnavalet Museum

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except Mondays and public holidays

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Join the Carnavalet Museum on 

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