

Marcel Proust, a Parisian novel

December 16, 2021 - April 10, 2022

Preview on December 15



Jacques-Emile Blanche, *Portrait de Marcel Proust*, 1892,
huile sur toile. Musée d'Orsay.
Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski

The Carnavalet Museum – History of Paris is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Marcel Proust (1871–1922).

Dedicated to the relationship between Marcel Proust and Paris, where he spent most of his life, the exhibition *Marcel Proust, a Parisian novel* will investigate the city's place in Proust's novel.

The first section of the exhibition will explore the world Marcel Proust inhabited in Paris. Having been born and died in Paris, Proust's life unfurled in the very restricted area encompassed by Parc Monceau, Place de la Concorde, Auteuil, Bois de Boulogne and l'Étoile.

Paris was of immense importance in the development of Marcel Proust's literary vocation, from the time of his earliest writings in the late 1890s with his fellow-pupils at the Lycée Condorcet, to his entry into the city's high society and encounters with people who would be decisive to his life.

PRESS RELEASE

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#ExpoProust**

Proust's discovery of Paris's artistic and social circles, and the friendships and loves he experienced there, strengthened his personality and led him to awareness of his vocation. Maps of the city will illustrate Marcel Proust's existence in Paris, his networks and his favourite places.

The central feature of the exhibition will evoke the writer's bedroom and offer – by means of a unique device – full immersion in his world. The furniture and objects in the room, closely associated with the personal life of Marcel Proust and his family, make it possible to recreate the writer's space of invention and recount the genesis of his novel.

The second part of the exhibition opens on the fictional Paris created by Marcel Proust. Following the architecture of the novel *In Search of Lost Time* and evoking emblematic places in the city, it offers a journey through the novel and the history of the capital, focusing on the book's central characters. The city of Paris, represented poetically in the novel, is the setting for the quest of the narrator, the author's alter ego, until the revelation of his vocation as a writer.

Approximately 280 works (paintings, sculptures, drawings, photographs, architectural models, accessories and clothing), plus manuscripts and documents from public and private collections, both French and foreign, will evoke Marcel Proust's Parisian universe, alternating between reality and reinvention. Numerous extracts taken from archive films, film adaptations and sound recordings of *In Search of Lost Time* will offer visitors a sensorial introduction to the novel and Proust's world.

In parallel, a special exhibition will be held in the permanent collections with the title "Anna de Noailles, The Shadow of Days", to introduce visitors to the creative world of one of Marcel Proust's friends, the poetess Anna de Noailles, née Brancovan (1876–1933), who lived at 40 Rue Scheffer in the 16th arrondissement during the 1910s. Her room, which was donated to the museum in the late 1970s, will be reconstructed.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Carnavalet Museum -
History of Paris
23 Rue de Sévigné - 75003 Paris
Tel: 01 44 59 58 58
www.carnavalet.paris.fr

Open from Tuesday to Sunday
From 10h to 18h

The museum is accessible to
people with reduced mobility

TICKETS

Full : €11
Reduced : €9

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Camille Pissarro, *L'Avenue de l'Opéra*, 1898, huile sur toile
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