

The Régence in Paris (1715-1723)

The Dawn of the Enlightenment

20 October 2023 - 25 February 2024



Pierre-Denis Martin, *Louis XV, âgé de 5 ans, sortant du lit de Justice, le 12 septembre 1715*
CCO Paris Musées / Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris

The Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris is holding an exhibition on the Régence, a forgotten period in history, marking the return of the King and of political, economic and cultural life to Paris.

Louis XIV died in Versailles on 1 September 1715, leaving behind a nation in debt and a five-year-old child too young to rule, Louis XV, as his heir. On 2 September, the Duke Philippe d'Orléans (1674–1723), nephew of the late King, took on the role of Regent of France. This exhibition takes place as part of the tricentennial commemoration of the Regent's death.

In 1715, the court, the government and all the administrations moved back to Paris, the second city in Europe, whose population increased significantly then. Thus, the city, and notably the Palais-Royal, the Regent's residence, became the heart of all political life. A period of intense cultural effervescence ensued, giving rise to a world of philosophical, economic and artistic innovations: Voltaire, Marivaux, Montesquieu, Law and Watteau are some the most well-known figures of the time. With the invention of paper money and the bankruptcy of 1720, these years of economic and financial frenzy were interspersed with significant twists and turns. Under the Régence emerged a newfound freedom of criticism, which would become known as the spirit of the Enlightenment.

The thematic structure chosen for the exhibition highlights the innovations of the period in order to illustrate the breadth of their historical significance. Over 200 works (paintings, sculptures, graphic artworks, items of decor and pieces of furniture), coming from public and private collections, help us explore this period in history and account for the mutations of society, at a time when Paris was becoming the cultural capital of France in a permanent way.

PRESS RELEASE

HEAD CURATOR

Valérie Guillaume, Director of the
Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris

CURATORS

José de Los Llanos, Chief Curator,
Head of the Graphic Arts Collection
and of the Scale Model Department,
Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris
Ulysse Jardat, Curator, Head of the
Decors, Furniture and Decorative
Arts Department, Musée Carnavalet -
Histoire de Paris

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris
23 rue de Sévigné - 75003 Paris
www.carnavalet.paris.fr/en

Open from Tuesday to Sunday
From 10 am to 18 pm
The museum is accessible to people
with reduced mobility

TICKETS

Full: €13
Reduced: €11

PRESS OFFICE

MUSÉE CARNAVALET -
HISTOIRE DE PARIS
Camille Courbis
camille.courbis@paris.fr
+33(0)1 44 59 58 76
+33(0)6 07 34 48 55

PIERRE LAPORTE COMMUNICATION
carnavalet@pierre-laporte.com
+33(0)1 45 23 14 14