

Reopening of the Carnavalet Museum – History of Paris Saturday 29 May 2021

Following four years of major restoration work, the Carnavalet Museum – History of Paris will reopen its doors on Saturday 29 May 2021. It marks a veritable renaissance for the City of Paris's oldest museum, situated in the heart of the Marais and boasting a collection of 625,000 works.

To improve the quality of the museum's reception and mediation, and the presentation of the collections and access for all publics, the Carnavalet Museum – History of Paris has had a full makeover. Four years of intense work – directed by the agency Chatillon Architectes in association with Snøhetta and the agency NC, Nathalie Crinière – were necessary for this renovation. The complex project has restored the two private mansions that compose the museum (the Hôtel Carnavalet and Hôtel Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau) but also completely redesigned the museum presentation.

This far-reaching renovation was carried out in parallel with an unprecedented project of restoration of the 3800 works presented in the new presentation. Uncompromising yet accessible, the new Carnavalet Museum is reopening its doors to all lovers of Paris.

An architectural wonder magnified

The renovation of the Carnavalet Museum – History of Paris has allowed the building to be enhanced, its architecture to be rediscovered, its accessibility to be improved and the visitor experienced enhanced.

The updating of the technical and regulatory standards of the historic monument was one of the objectives of the partial restoration to ensure the building operates in complete safety and in accordance with international standards.

The facades looking onto the Cour des Drapiers, the street-side facades of the oldest part of the Hôtel Carnavalet, the roofs and a large part of the exterior joinery of the Hotel Carnavalet have also been restored.

Bays that were till now hidden have been opened to usher in the light, give views over the courtyards and gardens of the two mansions, and allow their original architecture to be appreciated once more. Interior fittings have been designed to emphasise the buildings' volumes and the architecture of the different spaces.

A great discovery of this renovation is that one of the oldest parts of the building, the basement of the Hôtel Carnavalet, has had its vaulted stone spaces unveiled and is now open to the public.



Cour des Drapiers, Carnavalet Museum – History of Paris © Cyrille Weiner

The public has been placed at the heart of this project, and will discover new spaces for circulation accessible to everyone.

The museum will use its original entrance at 23 rue de Sévigné, and a new reception area has been created in the building's 17th-century stables.

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HISTORY OF PARIS**
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A rethought museographic presentation

The new Carnavalet Museum has met the challenge to tell the History of Paris in 3900 square metres.

While preserving the special charm of this museum in the heart of the historic Marais district, **3800 works are displayed in a redesigned presentation.** Some 60% of the works today exhibited had till now been kept in the reserves.

Designed as a **veritable journey into Paris's past and present, the new presentation – organised for the first time in continuous chronological order** – displays the museum's greatest historical treasures, ranging from prehistory to the present day. Paintings, sculptures, furniture, panelling, objets d'art, historical objects, signs, photographs, drawings, prints, posters, models, medals, coins and archaeological collections retrace the history of Paris in unique fashion: it is at once historical, documentary, emotionally powerful and close to the hearts of all Parisians.

In addition to Marcel Proust's famous bedroom, the *Portrait of Madame de Sévigné* by Claude Lefèvre, the Fouquet jewellery shop designed and built in 1901 by Alfonse Mucha, the museum's famous decorated and period rooms, the public will find new rooms on the ground floor **that illustrate the history of the City of Paris and the history of the museum** and present Paris, its symbols and key information. **In the basement, which was previously not open to the public, the spaces present the collections that cover the period from the Mesolithic (9600-6000 BC) to the Renaissance.**

In addition to the Renaissance, which has entered the presentation, the museum is open to the **Middle Ages and the 20th and 21st centuries.**

For the city's present history (since 1977, the date of the reform of Paris's status), a room gives painters, photographers, architects, designers and others the opportunity to express the power of the changes and projects in operation in Paris itself and the Greater Paris area.



The Luynes Stairway © Cyrille Weiner



The Wendel Ballroom © Cyrille Weiner

Access and mediation for all publics

From the moment they arrive, visitors benefit from a reorganised reception area designed to **improve the museum's capacity and offer greater comfort while creating a fluid and enjoyable circulation respectful of the setting.**

Access to and proximity with the works on display have also been improved. The museum has adopted an innovative approach by hanging **10% of the works presented at a suitable height for children.**

Improvements allow everyone access to all the permanent collections, with the development of attractive and fun mediation devices to appeal to the museum's wide range of publics.

Lastly, the museum now offers **interactive digital devices** (filmed interviews, documentaries, animated films, listening spaces, touch screens) to improve knowledge of Paris's major historical events.



© Pierre Antoine

Unprecedented restoration of the works

All of the works in the new presentation have been restored. Over a hundred conservators and restorers of varied background (painting, sculpture, wood, metal, etc.) have contributed to this ambitious restoration of the collections to enrich this outstanding Parisian heritage.



The Salon Demarteau restored © JB Gurliat / Ville de Paris



The reception room from the Hôtel d'Uzès undergoing restoration
© Antoine Mercusot

The upcoming programme

Opening week-end

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May 2021

Concerts given by the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, performances by the Retouramont company, and mediation by the students at the École du Louvre.

Information at:

www.carnavalet.paris.fr

Temporary exhibition from 15 June 2021

For the exhibition **Henri Cartier-Bresson – Revisiting Paris**, the Carnavalet Museum has partnered with the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation to display the museum's photographic collection and underline the importance of Paris in the life of one of France's greatest photographers during the 20th century.

Download the press release [here](#)



The Carnavalet Museum – History of Paris in figures

- 4 years of restoration work with a budget of 58,327,000 euros
- Collections numbering more than 625,000 works that span several millennia, from Prehistory to the present day
- Over 3800 works exhibited, 10% of which at children's height
- 3900 m² of permanent exhibition space in the heart of the city devoted to the history of Paris and its populace
- 34 reconstructed décors
- 360 m² of temporary exhibition space
- 2400 m² of gardens and courtyards
- 600 m² allocated to a centre of cultural activities and historical and documentary resources

Practical information

**CARNAVALET MUSEUM –
HISTORY OF PARIS**

23 rue de Sévigné - 75003 Paris
T. : +33(0)1 44 59 58 58
www.carnavalet.paris.fr

Opening hours

Open everyday from 10h to 18h except
Mondays and certain Bank holidays
(1 May, 25 December, 1 January)
Ticket office closes at 17h30).

Ticket reservations

Free entry to the permanent
collections
Reservation required for entry
to temporary exhibitions but also
for the permanent collections
during the reopening,
on www.parismusees.paris.fr
or at +33(0)1 44 59 58 58

Metro station: Saint Paul
or Chemin Vert

Follow us!
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**CARNAVALET MUSEUM –
HISTORY OF PARIS**

Management

Valérie Guillaume
Director of the Carnavalet Museum –
History of Paris, general heritage
officer

PARIS MUSÉES

The network of museums of the City of Paris

Grouped since 2013 in the public body Paris Musées, the 14 museums and heritage sites of the City of Paris together offer outstanding collections in terms of their diversity and quality.

Today the museums offer a new welcoming policy, with revised pricing for temporary exhibitions, and paying special attention to those who feel out of touch with the cultural offer.

The museums of the City of Paris are also blessed with an exceptional architectural heritage: private mansions in the heart of historic districts, palaces constructed for World's Fairs, and artists' workshops. Extraordinary assets that make the museums outstanding places, preserved thanks to a renovation plan costing over 110 million euros, initiated in 2015 by the City of Paris, which would never have succeeded without the determination and ambition of Delphine Levy, the founder and overall director of Paris Musées from 2013 to 2020.

The board of directors of Paris Musées is chaired by Carine Rolland, deputy mayor of Paris in charge of Culture and of "la ville du quart d'heure"; Afaf Gabelotaud, deputy mayor of Paris in charge of businesses, employment and economic development, is vice-president. Anne-Sophie de Gasquet has been overall director since April 2021.

See the complete programme of museum activities, discover the collections and prepare for your visit at: www.parismusees.paris.fr

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THE PATRONS OF THE RENOVATION PROGRAMME



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