

# Paris 1793-1794

## A Revolutionary Year

16 October 2024 – 16 February 2025



Nanine Vallain, *Liberty*, 1794  
© Collection Musée de la Révolution française - Département de l'Isère  
Dépôt du Musée du Louvre

For the first time, the Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris, renowned worldwide for its collections on the French Revolution, has decided to single out one year in the revolution—without a doubt the most complex of them. The *Paris 1793-1794: A Revolutionary Year* exhibition signals the importance of Paris's revolutionary role. The “Year II” of the republican calendar, which covers the period from September 22nd, 1793 to September 21st, 1794, was a key year for the French Revolution.

1789, the year of the Storming of the Bastille and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, is often considered to be the glorious year of the Revolution and even to embody the French Revolution in its entirety. It is the year during which Paris established itself as the capital of the Enlightenment and Revolutions.

But compared to the clarity of “89”, “93” appears much darker and thornier. As it was just coming to an end, this long political year spanning from the spring of 1793 to the summer of 1794 had already found a name: the “Terror”. Fabricated for political reasons, the word points to the authoritarian transition that the republican regime had undergone. And yet, the years 1793-1794 are also the years that some, confident in their ability to reinvent history, called “Year II”: a year

PRESS  
RELEASE

---

### SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

**Valérie Guillaume**, director of the Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris

**Philippe Charnotet**, assistant curator and head of the numismatic collection at the Musée Carnavalet

**Anne Zazzo**, chief curator, head of the historical and memorial objects collection at the Musée Carnavalet

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Jean-Clément Martin**, professor emeritus of History of the French Revolution at the University Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne

**Alain Chevalier**, director of the Musée de la Révolution Française – Domaine de Vizille

**Aurélien Larné**, archivist at the Ministry of Justice – Department of the Archives, Documentation and Cultural Heritage

**Marisa Linton**, professor of Modern History at the University of Kingston – London

**Guillaume Mazeau**, senior lecturer of Modern History at the Université Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne

**Allan Potofsky**, professor of Modern History at the Université Paris-Cité

**Charles Eloi Vial**, curator of the Libraries for the Department of Manuscripts at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France

defined by its breaking with the past and its revitalising of revolutionary utopias.

It is this contrasted legacy that the present exhibition offers to explore, through the artistic, emotional and intellectual profusion of this time of crisis. The year 1793-1794 was “revolutionary” in two senses of the word: a part of the 700 000 Parisians experienced it as a time of utopia and political experiments that might thwart despair, but it was also “revolutionary” because of the exceptional and provisional measures that weighed heavily on the population.

The exhibition is a collection of more than 250 works of all kinds: paintings, sculptures, objects of decorative arts, historical and memorial objects, wallpaper, posters, pieces of furniture... And all translate collective histories and incredible individual fates.

These varied objects reveal a context imbued with collective fears and state violence, but also with extraordinary daily activities, feasts, and celebrations. The most famous art pieces are shown in a new light, thanks to scientific investigations carried out in laboratories. Several creations were produced in dialogue with the art displayed: a text written by the writer Eric Vuillard, entitled “The Death of Robespierre”, and several drawings from the artists Florent Grouazel and Younn Locard. The exhibition will also display five filmed interviews—with Déborah Cohen, Aurélien Larné, Guillaume Mazeau, Côme Simien and Sophie Wahnich—as well as a multimedia device allowing visitors to continue their visit in the main Parisian locations of the time still viewable today.

## LOCATION AND HOURS

MUSÉE CARNAVALET - HISTOIRE DE PARIS

23 rue de Sévigné - 75003 Paris

T +33(0)1 44 59 58 58

[www.carnavalet.paris.fr](http://www.carnavalet.paris.fr)

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Ticket office closes at 5.30pm

Closed on Monday and on certain bank holidays

## TICKETS PRICES

Full entry ticket: 13€

Reduced entry ticket: 11€

## PRESS CONTACT

MUSÉE CARNAVALET

Camille Courbis

[camille.courbis@paris.fr](mailto:camille.courbis@paris.fr)

+33(0)1 86 21 23 66

+33(0)6 07 34 48 55

PIERRE LAPORTE

COMMUNICATION

[carnavalet@pierre-laporte.com](mailto:carnavalet@pierre-laporte.com)

+33(0)1 45 23 14 14

Alice Delacharlery

+33(0)6 38 81 53 74

Frédéric Pillier

+33(0)6 42 82 28 67



Pierre-Antoine Demachy, *The Feast of Unity and of the Meeting at Place de la Révolution*, around 1793 CC0 Paris Musées / Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris