



**MUSÉE DE CLUNY**  
le monde médiéval

**PRESS RELEASE**  
February 2024

## ARTS IN FRANCE DURING THE TIME OF CHARLES VII (1422-1461)

Under the reign of Charles VII, art experienced an extraordinary rebirth. The exhibition "Arts in France during the time of Charles VII (1422-1461)", presented at the Musée de Cluny - Musée National du Moyen Âge from 12 March to 16 June 2024, highlights this pivotal moment in the history of art.

From the 1420s, during the Hundred Years' War, the Kingdom of France underwent profound political and artistic changes. In the north of the kingdom, occupied by the English and the Burgundians, multiple artistic centres emerged. When the dauphin Charles managed to win back his throne, thanks in particular to Joan of Arc, followed by his kingdom, all the conditions for a revival were met. Key patrons, such as Jacques Cœur, called on a new generation of artists, who converted to Flemish realism - known as *ars nova* - which was on the rise with Jan van Eyck in particular, while through the Italian influence, they drew on the classical heritage developed by artists such as Filippo Brunelleschi, Donatello and Giovanni Bellini. Artistic creation gradually broke away from international Gothic and shifted to a new vision of reality, foreshadowing the Renaissance.

After an initial section for historical contextualisation, the exhibition demonstrates the diversity of the arts in the key geographical centres, often associated with major patrons. In the third and final section, the route provides an analysis of the specificities of this art in France, between Burgundian and Flemish *ars nova* and Italian innovations. A key chapter is devoted to Provence and the role of René d'Anjou, patron and one of the early champions of northern art, exploring the figure of the artist Barthélemy d'Eyck among others.

Throughout the visit, the exhibition explores the diversity of artistic production during the reign of Charles VII. It brings together prestigious illuminated manuscripts, paintings, sculptures, gold and silversmithery, stained glass and tapestries. It includes exceptional works, such as the canopy of Charles VII (Musée du Louvre), the manuscript of the *Rohan Hours* (Bibliothèque nationale de France) or the *Aix Annunciation* (Aix-en-Provence) by Barthélemy d'Eyck, a painter for Duke René of Anjou who illuminated his *Tournament Book* (Bibliothèque nationale de France). For the first time, the Parisian triptych of *the Passion and Resurrection of Christ* by André d'Ypres will be fully reconstructed (Musée du Louvre, Getty Museum, Musée Fabre). Finally, an entire section will be dedicated to Jean Fouquet, one of the greatest French painters of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A genius of illumination, he produced the famous portrait painted on wood of Charles VII (Musée du Louvre), presented in its rightful place in the exhibition.

The exhibition "Arts in France during the time of Charles VII (1422-1461)" is organised by the Musée de Cluny - Musée National du Moyen Âge and the Grand Palais Rmn. Several curators from major national institutions have been brought together for the exhibition, including Mathieu Deldicque, Chief Heritage Curator, Director of the Musée Condé in Chantilly,

6 place Paul Painlevé  
75005 Paris  
T: 01 53 73 78 00

[musee-moyenage.fr](http://musee-moyenage.fr)  
X [@museecluny](https://twitter.com/museecluny)  
Facebook [@museecluny](https://www.facebook.com/museecluny)  
Instagram [@museecluny](https://www.instagram.com/museecluny)  
Musée de Cluny - musée national du Moyen Âge  
#ExpoCharlesVII

Maxence Hermant, Chief Curator at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Department of Manuscripts, Medieval Manuscripts Collection and Sophie Lagabrielle, Head Curator at the Musée de Cluny, in charge of paintings, stained glass and graphic arts. Séverine Lepape, Director of the Musée de Cluny and Head Conservator, will act as Chief Curator.

The exhibition is organised with the exceptional collaboration of the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

It is supported by The Selz Foundation, The Ruddock Foundation for the Arts, the Fondation Etrillard and The New York Medieval Society.

### About the Musée de Cluny - Musée National du Moyen Âge

Reopened on 12 May 2022, the Musée de Cluny is the only national museum in France dedicated to the Middle Ages. The public can now discover the Middle Ages for a new generation, thanks to improved accessibility, renewal of the visit itinerary and museum design, and redesign of the information tools targeted at a diverse public.

At 28 rue Du Sommerard, in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the museum takes you on a journey back in time, from the 1st to the 21st century, in a unique setting. The 15th century private townhouse of the Abbots of Cluny, attached to the Gallo-Roman thermal baths, has now been joined by a contemporary extension, inaugurated in 2018 and designed by the architect Bernard Desmoulin.

This heritage site houses prestigious collections illustrating the extraordinary diversity of medieval artistic production. The new museum itinerary follows a chronological thread, designed to make the development of forms, groundbreaking moments, innovations and aesthetic differences between Northern and Southern Europe easy to understand. Through a multitude of approaches and media, the cultural programme provides information to a wide-ranging public.

### Contact :

#### Mathilde Fouillet

Deputy Director of Communication and Partnerships

[mathilde.fouillet@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:mathilde.fouillet@culture.gouv.fr)

T. +33 (0) 1 53 73 79 04

P. +33 (0) 6 61 70 13 24

### Practical information

#### Museum entrance :

28 rue Du Sommerard  
75005 Paris

#### Opening times :

Open every every day, except Monday,  
from 9.30 am to 6.15 pm  
Open 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evening of the  
month from 7 to 9 pm  
Closed on 25 December, 1 January  
and 1 May

#### Book/gift shop :

9.30 am – 6.15 pm, free entry  
Tél. +33 (0) 1 53 73 78 22

#### Directions :

Métro Cluny-La-Sorbonne/Saint-  
Michel/Odéon  
Bus n° 21 – 27 – 38 – 63 – 85 – 86 – 87  
RER lines B and C Saint-Michel – Notre-  
Dame

#### Prices :

€12, concessions €10  
Free for those aged under 26 (EU citizens  
or on long stays in the EU) and for all  
visitors on the first Sunday of the  
month

Comment and share on Twitter,  
Facebook and Instagram : [@museecluny](#)  
LinkedIn [Musée de Cluny -  
musée national du Moyen Âge](#)  
[#ExpoCharlesVII](#)



MINISTÈRE  
DE LA CULTURE

GrandPalais  
Rmn

(BnF) Bibliothèque  
nationale de France



FONDATION  
ETRILLARD



New York  
Medieval Society