



MUSÉE DE CLUNY
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**PRESS
RELEASE**

ALABASTER TEARS

The Mourners of the Tomb of John the Fearless, Duke of Burgundy
27 February - 3 June 2013

Started in 2010 during the renovation of the Musée des beaux-arts de Dijon, the international exhibition tour of the mourners of the tomb of John the Fearless will make its last stop at the Musée de Cluny. 39 figures forming the procession of the dead prince will be presented in a scenography highlighting the dramatic intensity as well as the subtlety of each of the sculptures.

The mourners of the tomb of John the Fearless are to be counted among the masterpieces of 15th century Burgundian sculpture. They come from the tomb of the Duke of Burgundy and of his wife Margaret of Bavaria which was commissioned by their son Philip the Good in 1443.

The first sculptor to dedicate himself to the tomb was Jean de La Huerta until 1456. He sculpted the delicately chiseled gallery, the mourners, the angels featured on the tombstone as well as the funeral helmet. His successor Antoine Le Moiturier carved the recumbent effigies from 1466 to 1469, and completed the mourners and the arches. It was required by contract that both artists' final work should remain as true as possible to the design of the tomb of Philip the Bold, father of John the Fearless. Attributing the mourners to either one of them is therefore quite tricky. In the scenography designed for the Musée de Cluny, the mourners, clerics and laymen altogether, some wearing long, hooded mourning cloaks,

form a funeral march mimicking the real life procession. Temporarily freed from the protective arches surrounding them in the Dijon tomb, they walk one after the other in a setting which allows the public a more thorough look at them and enhances their high artistic quality. The variety in their stances and expressions reflects the intensity of their emotions as they are about to face death.

Achieving a tour which took them to seven American museums and to Europe (in Sint-Janhospitaal in Bruges and Bode Museum in Berlin), the mourners will make their last appearance at the Musée de Cluny - Musée national du Moyen Âge, after which they will reclaim their original spot in the renovated rooms of the Musée de Dijon.

Practical information

Musée de Cluny

musée national du Moyen Âge
6, place Paul Painlevé
75005 Paris
Tél: 01 53 73 78 16
www.musee-moyenage.fr

Open every day except Tuesday from 9.15 to 17.45.

Last Admission 17.15.
Exhibition closed on 25 December and
1st January

Bookshop/shop:

9.15 – 18.00, free access
Tel. 01 53 73 78 22

Getting there:

Metro Cluny-La-Sorbonne / Saint-
Michel / Odéon
Bus n°21-27-38-63-85-86-87
RER: B and C line, stop at Saint-
Michel – Notre- Dame station

Admission:

8, 50 €, concession 6, 50 €, includes
entrance to the permanent
collections.
Free entrance for people under 26
years (from or residing in the EU) and
for all on the first Sunday of each
month

Publication:

Catalogue de l'exposition, Éditions
Lannoo, 2012 - 160 pages, 29, 99 €.

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Credit: Jean de La Huerta, Antoine Le Moiturier, Mourner n°55 of the tomb of John the Fearless and Margaret of Bavaria / © Musée des beaux-arts de Dijon. François Jay