



MUSÉE DE CLUNY
le monde médiéval

RESS RELEASE

August 2022

TOULOUSE 1300-1400 : L'ÉCLAT D'UN GOTHIQUE MÉRIDIONAL (THE EMERGENCE OF THE SOUTHERN GOTHIC)

A summary of recent research, the exhibition “Toulouse, 1300-1400: l'éclat d'un gothique méridional (the emergence of the Southern Gothic)”, presented at the Musée de Cluny – Musée National du Moyen Âge from 18 October 2022 to 22 January 2023, depicts a unique inventory of creativity in Toulouse in the 14th century.

During this period, Toulouse was one of the largest cities in France, along with Paris, Lyon, Orléans and Rouen. Toulouse, in the Languedoc region, was in its heyday in the first half of the 14th century. Governed by the Kingdom of France since 1271, the city retained its character while growing economically. It benefited from the installation of the French Popes in Avignon, who were often very closely linked to the University of Toulouse or to the mendicant monastic orders established in the city, in particular the Franciscans or Cordeliers and the Dominicans or Jacobins.

The city's organisation and way of life will be covered in the first part of the exhibition, with an overview of Toulouse ceramic tableware and, through epitaphs, the diversity of Toulouse inhabitants in the 14th century.

The second part will present a selection of works of art, focusing on a set of four statues from a building no longer in existence, the Rieux Chapel in Toulouse. Starting with the figure of the patron of this group, the Franciscan monk Jean Tissendier, these works are some of the most beautiful polychrome sculptures from the 14th century, in France and even in Europe. The Toulouse miniature will also be showcased, through around fifteen illuminated manuscripts or sheets. These colourful pages are testament to the originality of the Toulouse illuminators, who were influenced by the Parisian models as well as the Catalan artists and their Italian colleagues.

This back and forth of influences between Toulouse, Avignon and the Pyrenean valleys will be covered in the third section, where gold and silverware bearing the hallmark of the city of Toulouse will also be on display.

The exhibition is organised by the Musée de Cluny – Musée National du Moyen Âge and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux – Grand Palais. It has benefited from an exceptional loan from the Musée des Augustins in Toulouse. The Toulouse Fine Art Museum is housed in the Augustines convent, right in the heart of the city's historic centre.

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After being occupied by the Augustine monks until the French Revolution, the site was transformed into a museum in 1793. The collections it houses now include over 4,000 works from the Middle Ages to the mid-20th century, equally divided between sculptures and paintings. The Musée des Augustins is currently closed to the public for major renovation work and to make the building accessible.

In addition to the 15 works of art from the Musée des Augustins, the exhibition is enriched by prestigious loans from other Toulouse institutions, the Musées de Pampelune, the Vatican Library, the Musée du Louvre and major Parisian libraries.

The exhibition is curated by Béatrice de Chancel-Bardelot, General Curator at the Musée de Cluny, and Charlotte Riou, Curator at the Musée des Augustins in Toulouse.

The vocation of the Musée de Cluny, also known as the National Museum of the Middle Ages, is to raise awareness of the artistic creativity of this era by forming links with institutions that own leading medieval artworks, whether these museums are based locally in the region, or internationally.

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.

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Practical information

Museum entrance

28 rue Du Sommerard
75005 Paris

**Open every day except Monday,
from 9.30am to 6.15pm**

Directions

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

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