



MUSÉE DE CLUNY
le monde médiéval

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EMBROIDERY IN THE MIDDLE AGES

24 October 2019 - 20 January 2020

Embroidery in silk, gold and silver thread was one of the most highly valued and prestigious arts of the Middle Ages. And yet, today, these works are not at all well known. From 24 October 2019 to 20 January 2020, the Musée de Cluny, the National Museum of the Middle Ages, shines a light on the range of work produced in Europe in its « Embroidery in the Middle Ages » exhibition.

Embroidery is a luxury art using valuable materials, making it symbolic of a certain social status and a commodity used in trade and commerce. Clothing, caparisons, purses and altar frontals were adorned with coats of arms and religious and secular scenes by talented craftspeople whose expertise developed in accordance with the period and region in which they worked. In the Church and in the homes of rich and powerful families, embroidery adorned walls, furniture and clothing, in secular and holy designs of gold, silver and silk.

The exhibition takes you through the main embroidery production centres and areas, transporting you from the Germanic regions to Italy via the Meuse region, Flanders and the Low Countries, England and France. It also provides an overview of the role medieval embroidery played from an artistic and social point of view, covering techniques, manufacturing processes and the relationships between sponsors, embroiderers, painters and merchants.

The Musée de Cluny has one of the finest collections of 12th- to 16th-century embroidery, including the famous leopards tapestry, a royal caparison that was later made into a chasuble. These works, which have recently been restored, now have new lighting thanks to loans from major institutions such as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Royal Museums of Art and History in Brussels. Four « Lives of saints » scenes, which are among the finest examples to come out of Florence, are beautifully displayed together. The Cluny's embroidered panel depicting « The miraculous healing at the tomb of Saint Martin » interrelates with one from the same collection at the Museum of Textiles in Lyon, produced by two artists working for King René of Anjou: the painter Barthélemy d'Eyck and the embroiderer Pierre du Billant.

The « Embroidery in the Middle Ages » exhibition will run from 24 October 2019 to 20 January 2020 in the frigidarium at the Musée de Cluny, the National Museum of the Middle Ages, and is co-produced by the Réunion des musées nationaux – Grand Palais.

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

musee-moyenage.fr
[@museecluny](https://www.facebook.com/museecluny)
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About the Musée de Cluny

Established in the heart of Paris in 1843, the National Museum of the Middle Ages is housed in two buildings classified as historical monuments: the antique thermal baths of North Lutetia (1st-2nd century) and the town house of the abbots of Cluny (late 15th century). An extension designed by the architect Bernard Desmoulin opened in July 2018.

A major modernisation project is taking place at the museum until 2021. As a result of the museum tour route project, the Cluny medieval town house and the courtyard will be inaccessible until then.

In 2018, the Musée de Cluny welcomed almost 158,687 visitors, despite being closed for four and a half months in total (compared with 24,494 visitors in 2017).

Currently at the Musée de Cluny

Discover all the cultural activities related to the « Embroidery in the Middle Ages » exhibition at www.musee-moyenage.fr

« Treasures of the Musée de Cluny »: temporary display of collections from 14 July 2018 to spring 2021

« Mysterious caskets. Prints at the time of the *Lady and the unicorn* » exhibition from 18 September 2019 to 6 January 2020

Contact

Aline Damoiseau

Press and Editorial Communications Officer

aline.damoiseau@culture.gouv.fr

T. +33 (0) 1 53 73 78 25 - P. +33 (0) 6 09 23 51 65

Practical information

Museum entrance

28 rue Du Sommerard
75005 Paris

Hours:

Open every day, except for Tuesday: from 9.15am to 5.45pm.
Last entry at 5.15pm
Closed: 25th December, 1st January and 1st May

Book store / Gift shop:

9.15am - 6pm, free entry
Tel.: +33 (0)1 53 73 78 22

Access:

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

Tickets:

€9, reduced rate €7
Free of charge for persons under 26 years of age (EU citizens or long-term residents in the EU) and for everyone on the first Sunday of every month.

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