

Drawings Without Reserve

*Le dessin
sans réserves
Collections
du Musée des
Arts Décoratifs*

Press
release



**23 June 2020
— 31 January 2021**

Robert Mallet-Stevens, Information and Tourism Pavilion at the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts, Paris, 1925 © MAD, Paris



connaissance
des arts

MUSÉE DES ARTS
DÉCORATIFS

Drawings Without Reserve

Le dessin sans réserves

Collections du Musée des Arts Décoratifs

1. Auguste Rodin —
Centaur and Child
C. 1890

Auguste Rodin Donation,
1908

© MAD, Paris

2. Pierre-Paul Prud'hon —
Nude young man
1st quarter of the 19th
century

Donation in memory
of Mr. Émile Perrin,
member of the Institut,
by his son Émile, 1909

© MAD, Paris /

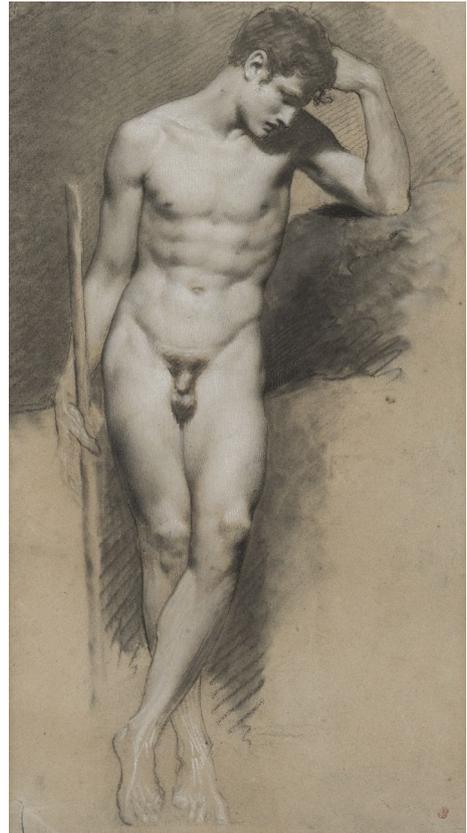
Photograph:

Jean Tholance

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs celebrates the richness of its *Cabinet of Drawings* with an exceptional exhibition showcasing masterpieces from its current collection. With more than 200,000 works ranging from the 16th century to present day, and from Europe and all the way to Japan, the museum's collection is one of the largest in the world. Drawings by Masters such as Le Brun, Watteau, Fragonard, Degas and Rodin will be displayed alongside the work of ornamentalists and decorators like Chareau and Royère, in addition to jewelry and haute couture designs.



1.



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To showcase the collection's diversity, 500 works of art have been selected. They will be presented in the form of an symbolic alphabet representative of the major themes of the art of drawing (A for Architecture; D for Decor; S for Seduction, and so forth).

Designed by the H5 collective, "Drawings Without Reserves" is an invitation to discover the complete repertoire of artists, significant iconographic ensembles and the astounding discoveries made over recent years.



3.

3. *Pierre Chareau* —
Study-library of the
French Embassy
1925
Donation by *René Herbst*,
1961
© MAD, Paris

4. *Charles Le Brun* —
Project for the ceiling
of the Grand Cabinet
du roi in the Tuileries
C. 1665-1671
Acquisition, 1891
© MAD, Paris

The *Cabinet of Drawings* was created in 1974 by François Mathey, then Chief Curator of the Museum, at the suggestion of Marie-Noël de Gary. The collection itself was started in the 1880s, shortly after the institution was founded, with legendary donations by eminent art lovers such as Jules Maclet, whose utopian project was to author a pictorial encyclopedia, and Philippe de Chennevières, one of the most famous collectors of his era. Judicious acquisitions from public auctions (1885, 1891, 1896) completed these generous donations: for instance, rare drawings of furniture by André Charles Boulle, that survived a fire that destroyed his workshop in 1720.

Artists and their descendants also contributed to the Cabinet with major donations. Auguste Rodin gave eight of his drawings in 1908. Jean Dubuffet, Jean Royère and Emilio Terry offered the Museum complete ensembles drawn from their studios, shedding light on their creative process and revealing the more intimate side of their work. Over the past 150 years, the Museum has assembled an exceptional collection featuring the greatest masters and creators. These unique pieces are presented alongside decorative series – one of the hallmarks of the museum – such as projects for Art Nouveau wallpaper, *katagami* (Japanese stencils), Art Deco jewels, and more.

Displayed on level 3, the exhibition, presented like an alphabet book, was designed to evoke a mysterious world behind the scenes: the museum's storerooms. For instance, works may be shown in their transport cases. The circuit leads to the permanent galleries and ends in the Library.

The display begins with A for Architecture. Jacques Androuet Du Cerceau's sketchbook of views of antique monuments, a priceless Renaissance document, is displayed alongside Robert Mallet-Stevens' iconic "Pavilion of Tourism" for the exhibition of 1925, and the dream-like compositions of Emilio Terry. If architecture leads the way, its corollary, D for Decor, is just as richly represented, with studies for ceilings by Charles Le Brun and Charles de La Fosse, recently attributed and therefore shown for the first time to the public, as well as works by Claude III Audran. E for Ensemblist follows with Percier and Fontaine's *Recueil des decorations intérieures* and projects conceived by major interior designers such as Francis Jourdan, Robert Mallet-Stevens and Pierre Chareau, whose study-library of the French Embassy Pavilion for the exhibition of 1925 is displayed in the museum.



4.

5. Marguerite
Porracchia —
M^{me} Simone dressed
by Jeanne Lanvin
1920-1922
Donation by Bruno
Gaudensi and Sandra
Nahum, 2013
© Marguerite Porracchia

6. Alphons Maria
Mucha —
Project of a miniature
for the pendant
of a large corsage brooch
C. 1899-1900
Acquisition, 1994
© MAD, Paris

The Second Empire's passion for the 18th century, epitomized by the influential Goncourt brothers (hence "G" standing for "Goût Goncourt") is illustrated by the works of Carle Van Loo, François Boucher and Jean Honoré Fragonard. The museum's collection of furniture drawings (M for *Mobilier*) displays studies for cabinets by André Charles Boulle alongside Joe Colombo's *Tube Chair* and works by Jacques-Émile Ruhlmann and Jean Royère. Jewelry and fashion find their most charming expression in the "S for Seduction" section, with precious jewelry ensembles by René Lalique and Alphons Mucha, and recently identified sketches of dresses by Victor Lhuer for Paul Poiret, shown alongside the couturier's *Mosaïque* dress (c.1910). A collection of drawings by Marguerite Porracchia, who illustrated Jeanne Lanvin's designs, is shown here to the public for the first time. Lastly, the exhibition celebrates the splendors of the French capital in V for *Vie Parisienne*, brilliantly depicted by Jules Chéret's drawings for *Les Coulisses de l'Opéra au musée Grévin* or Léon Bakst's *Décor pour le ballet de Cléopâtre*.



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Resolutely cross-disciplinary in its approach, the exhibition showcases projects for gardens, sculptures, paintings, objects, silverware and wallpaper by both major and minor masters. It also affords the Museum the opportunity of displaying recent discoveries. Among these exhibits, scale models for the décors of the French Embassy Pavilion conceived for the *Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels* of 1925, shown for the first time to the public. The most spectacular are, without a doubt, Albert Besnard's lifesize pastel, *Study for a Horse* (1883) and Jean Souverbie's rediscovered model for the monumental staircase of the Théâtre national de Chaillot (1937), both restored for the exhibition.

140 years after the first major exhibition dedicated to designs for decoration and ornamentation by past masters shown by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs at the Palais de l'Industrie in 1880, "Drawings Without Reserves" is an invitation to discover the incredible diversity of a unique, ever-growing collection. It aims to shed light on its history and contours, but also to envision the future of a collection initially created to supply models for artists, which has come to illustrate the full scope of creation of the past six centuries.

PRESS RELEASE

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#DessinSansReserve

— MAD

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Sylvie Corréard, General Director
Olivier Gabet, Museums Director
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— Musée des Arts Décoratifs

Olivier Gabet, Museum Director
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Métro: Palais-Royal, Pyramides,
Tuileries
Open Tuesday to Sunday,
11 am–6 pm (Open late on Thursdays
until 9 pm: only temporary
exhibitions and the jewelry gallery
are open)
→ general entrance fee: 11 €
→ reduced entrance fee: 8,50 €

— Musée Nissim de Camondo

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Open 10 am–5:30 pm
Closed Monday and Tuesday
→ general entrance fee: 9 €
→ reduced entrance fee: 6,50 €

— Library

Stéphanie Rivoire, Library
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+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 36
Open Tuesday to Friday 10 am–6 pm

— Audience engagement, mediation and cultural development

The Educational and Cultural
Department organizes museum
tours for adults, groups and
individuals
→ Reservations:
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 26
thematic workshop-tours and
guided tours related to an exhibition
for 4 to 18 year-olds
→ Reservations:
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and lectures and panel discussions
→ Reservations:
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— 107RIVOLI, boutique-bookshop

105 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris
+33 (0) 1 42 60 64 94
Open 11 am–18:30 pm
Open late on Thursday until 9 pm
Closed Monday

— Loulou, restaurant

107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris
or access via the Carrousel gardens
Open daily 12 pm–2 am
+33 (0) 1 42 60 41 96

— Le Camondo, restaurant

61 bis rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris
Open Tuesday to Saturday from
noon to midnight and Sunday during
the day
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