

# The band Phoenix & Alexandre Humbert

in residence at the Musée  
des Arts Décoratifs

Press  
release

MAU

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1. Musée  
des Arts Décoratifs —  
Photo © 2021  
Guillaume Delaperrière

**Is there a rapport between the Decorative Arts, Indie Rock music and cinema, and if so, how are they connected? The answer to this question is being examined by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, which in late September invited the Indie Rock band Phoenix to work on their new record within the walls of the Musée while also opening its doors to cinematographic director and producer, Alexandre Humbert, who has been capturing on film the small, often overlooked moments of life at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs since lockdown.**

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It's a perfect coincidence that **Phoenix**, after recording for many years at the Gaité Lyrique, was looking for a new and unique space to work on their new record. Members of the band have long been admirers of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and found in it the ideal setting to practice their art while enjoying privileged access to museum collections and exhibitions, much of which has inspired their music since their residency began.

Originally from Versailles, Phoenix bandmembers include Thomas Mars, Deck d'Arcy, Laurent Brancowitz and Christian Mazzalai, and over the past twenty years, have gone from being an outsider French pop group to one of the most influential Indie Rock groups in the world.

As Laurent Brancowitz puts it, "The places we compose and record have always been important to Phoenix. We have used these spaces to discover and experiment with our art; to change the setting and scenery and to start a new adventure with each album."

The group works in the Rohan Wing of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in a space closed off to the public, transformed into a modern studio where they are composing and recording their seventh album, yet to be titled, a successor to their 2017 album *Ti Amo*. Since September, museum teams and bandmembers have worked together to enhance the relationship between the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and music.



2. Alexandre Humbert —  
© DR

**Alexandre Humbert's** story at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs began in the May of 2020, as France went into the first phase of lockdown. The cinema director and producer contacted Musée des Arts Décoratifs curator, Cloé Pitiot, and shared with her the idea of producing a film capturing important works from within the Musée's collections as these objets d'art sat in silence, eager to once again interact with the visiting public, while also documenting the behind-the-scenes work that museum staff carried out during quarantine. The film, entitled "Les Impatients," is a reflection of the life of objects and works of art deprived of light and appreciation in the halls of a museum dispossessed of visitors, yet still very much alive. "Les Impatients," documents the relationships between objects, spaces and people during this unique and unprecedented time in the history of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and indeed the world.

2.

Following the success of "Les Impatients," Humbert was invited to produce additional films for the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, including a four-part documentary entitled "A Season at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs." The first chapter, "Autumn," was released on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and draws inspiration from the exhibitions *Harper's Bazaar: First in Fashion* and *Le Dessin Sans Réserve* while offering a glimpse of the film's second chapter, "Winter" which will focus on the exhibitions *Luxes*, *Un Printemps Incertain* and *Histoires de Photographies*.

Conceived as a perpetually evolving work, the chapters of "Les Impatients" will complement each other and form a body of work documenting the several months that Humbert will spend at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs as the museum sits quietly, waiting for visitors to return once again.

Humbert also filmed and produced the "Le Soir, sur le toit," on the roof of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, a lead-up teaser to the *Luxes* exhibition, and designed the museum New Year's Wishes card which depicted a 19<sup>th</sup> century Second Empire tête-à-tête chair for three.

Additionally, Humbert plans to film and produce a segment on the work and office space of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs Director Olivier Gabet, a voracious reader whose collections of art-related books and magazines can be found on shelves and in stacks that nearly reach the ceilings.

“The very purpose of a museum’s existence is to both embrace and embolden the arts and artists, and the Musée des Arts Décoratifs has been at the forefront of this mission since its founding.

Supporting decorative and visual artists in both France and around the world is perhaps, our greatest legacy.

This commitment, in conjunction with the current global scenario, which has forced museums to close their doors, is why the Musée des Arts Décoratifs has recommitted itself to working with artists through a new artist-in-residence program.

Our first residents, the Indie Rock band Phoenix and the filmmaker Alexandre Humbert, longtime admirers of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, have provided us with another way of connecting with the world as we strive to bring art, in all of its forms, to the public.

Music and cinema, the focus of this first artist-in-residence program, are just the beginning as this program which will continue well into the future.”

Sylvie Correard,  
General Director of the Arts Décoratifs

# Useful information

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## — Press contacts

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## — Les Arts Décoratifs

Pierre-Alexis Dumas, President  
Sylvie Corréard, General Director  
Olivier Gabet, Museums Director  
Yvon Figueras, Director  
of international development  
and production  
Olivier Hassler, Communication  
Director

## — Musée des Arts Décoratifs

Olivier Gabet, Museum Director  
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
+33 (0) 1 44 55 57 50  
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: 14 €  
→ reduced entrance fee: 10 €  
→ free admission for under 26

## — Musée Nissim de Camondo

Olivier Gabet, Museum Director  
63 rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris  
+33 (0) 1 53 89 06 40  
Open 10 am–5:30 pm  
Closed Monday and Tuesday  
→ general entrance fee: 12 €  
→ reduced entrance fee: 9 €

## — Library

Stéphanie Rivoire, Library  
and Resources Director  
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 36  
Open Tuesday to Friday 10 am–6 pm

## — Visitor engagement, education 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 specific  
exhibitions for 4 to 18 year-olds  
→ Reservations:  
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 25  
and lectures and panel discussions  
→ Reservations:  
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 75

## — École Camondo

René-Jacques Mayer, Director  
266 Boulevard Raspail, 75014 Paris  
+33 (0) 1 43 35 44 28

## — Ateliers du Carrousel

Fulvia Di Pietrantonio, Director  
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
266 boulevard Raspail, 75014 Paris  
63 rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris  
+33 (0) 1 44 55 59 02

## — 107RIVOLI, museum shop

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  
+33 (0) 1 45 63 40 40

## — Internet and social media

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