

MAIRIE DE PARIS



# petitPalais

City of Paris Fine Art Museum

Museum guide

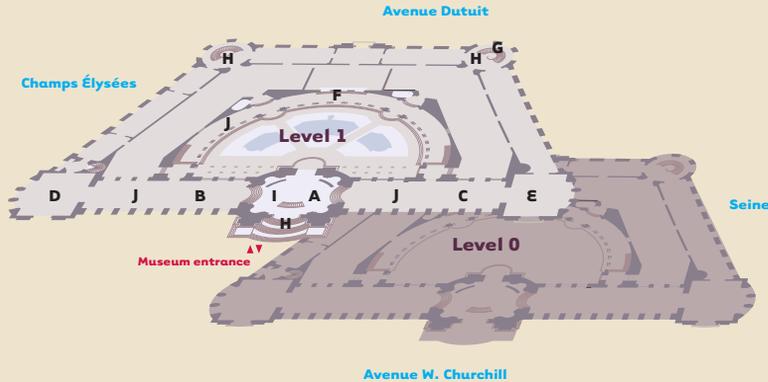
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## Museum floorplan



- A** Decorative murals by Albert Besnard
- B** Decorative murals by F. Cormon
- C** Decorative murals by A. Roll
- D** North pavilion, with decorative murals by F. Humbert
- E** South pavilion, with decorative murals by G. Picard
- F** Vaulted ceilings painted by Baudouin
- G** Dutuit cupola by Maurice Denis
- H** Wrought-iron work
- I** Stained-glass windows from the Champigneulle studio
- J** Facchina mosaics

## The building and its decor

# The building, history and interior decoration

The Petit Palais was built for the 1900 Universal Exhibition, like its neighbour the Grand Palais, on avenue Winston Churchill and it became a museum in 1902. Designed by Charles Girault, it is based on a trapezium shape and is made up of four wings around a semi-circular garden bordered by a richly decorated peristyle. The architect achieved a successful blend of traditional and modern architecture which is evident in the natural flow of visitors around the building and in the bold openings he created onto the Champs-Élysées gardens and inner courtyard garden.

The Petit Palais houses a significant collection of decorative murals and sculptures created between 1903 and 1925. The architect Charles Girault wanted to lend his building the grandeur and dignity of an official palace and created a programme of work designed to glorify the City of Paris and to celebrate the benefits of art. The locations for the areas to be decorated were carefully chosen with this aim in mind. They are mainly in areas through which people need to pass – entrance lobbies, the garden peristyle and the staircase under the cupola. Only the two large exhibition galleries also have decorative murals. This decoration took over twenty years to complete.



© Christophe Fouin

Detail from a gate

## The building and its decor

### A Decorative murals by Albert Besnard

Between 1903 and 1910, Albert Besnard painted four decorative murals in the Symbolist style for the museum's entrance lobby: *Matter, Thought, Formal Beauty and Mysticism*.

### B C Decorative murals by Cormon and Roll

Cormon and Roll were both given the task of decorating galleries which are 15 meters long. From 1906 to 1911, Cormon retold the story of Paris through history, from the battle of Lutetia up to the French Revolution. Roll, by contrast, was given the job of illustrating modern Paris. Directly above the main galleries there are sixteen plaster busts set into the wall representing famous artists including Eugène Delacroix, Pierre Lescot and François Mansart.

### D E The pavilions

In the North pavilion, Ferdinand Humbert painted two ceilings between 1909 and 1924 celebrating *The Intellectual Triumph* of Paris. Humbert introduced a contemporary character into his composition in the form of an ordinary pedestrian in a hat and overcoat going down some steps. In the South pavilion, Georges Picard depicted *The Triumph of Woman* (1906-1920).



Ceiling of the gallery and North pavilion

© Marc Verhille

## The building and its decor

### Staircase



© Christophe Fouin

### Peristyle



© Christophe Fouin

### F The garden peristyle

To decorate the vaulted ceiling of the garden portico, Paul Baudouin, who had studied under Puvis de Chavannes, reinvented the art of fresco painting which had been neglected since the Renaissance. He painted a huge vista of vines interspersed with medallions featuring *The Months of the Year* and *The Hours of the Day and Night*. The three large sections of the vaulted ceiling are punctuated by the feminine allegories of the *Seasons*.

### G The Dutuit cupola

The last phase of work took place just after World War One. Work on the cupola above the staircase providing access at the South East of the museum was entrusted to Maurice Denis, who created a composition retracing the history of French art, illustrated by portraits of artists along with their most famous works.

## The building and its decor

### H Wrought iron work

The main entrance gate, designed by Girault himself, was immediately praised for its elegance and the virtuosity of its craftsmanship. He also created the banisters for the staircases in rotundas and the garlands and swags of wrought iron decorating the peristyle and balconies.

### I Stained glass

The entrance rotunda is the only space in the Petit Palais which is lit by stained glass. There are four round openings (oculi) with stained-glass windows featuring interlocking designs in clear and opal glass in the American style, manufactured in the Champigneulle's workshops, a stained-glass artist from Lorraine.

### J

### Mosaics

The Petit Palais has a large area paved with mosaics covering the floors of the galleries, wings and first-floor rotunda. The garden peristyle and the edges of the three ponds have also been decorated with little blocks of marble. This luxurious floor surface was created by Facchina (1826-1923), the famous Italian mosaic artist.



© Christophe Fourn

The North Gallery  
with its mosaic floor.



North-East staircase  
© Pierre Coudert

## The Tour

There is a great variety of artefacts in the museum, donated by enthusiastic and eclectic collectors. Within the same room can be found paintings, sculptures and works of art linking the main artistic movements from Ancient Greece right up to World War One.

The gallery running along the facade of the building displays refined and precious objects representative of the peak of Parisian craftsmanship in 1900. Displayed cheek by jowl are works by some of the great painters and sculptors which were so highly popular in France in that era.

Opposite the Champs-Élysées garden are two galleries demonstrating the changing face of sculpture and landscape painting and the emergence of the modern movement. On the ground floor, galleries devoted to Carpeaux, Dalou, Guimard, Carriès and Vuillard round off this presentation of the ferment of artistic activity which characterised the period 1870-1910.

In addition to this significant collection of nineteenth-century French art, the Petit Palais received a collection of older artworks in a bequest from the Dutuit brothers in 1902. This bequest consists of over 20,000 varied works: antiquities, artefacts, seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish paintings and drawings, books, etchings, including almost complete collections by Rembrandt and Dürer... The addition of the Tuck donation in 1930 put the finishing touches to this collection. Displayed in a gallery bearing the donors' names, it brings together almost exclusively eighteenth-century works. This core of older works was further enhanced in 1998



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

**Charles-Alexandre Giron**, *Woman wearing gloves, known as The Parisian*, 1883



**Courbet and Realism**

© Christophe Fouin

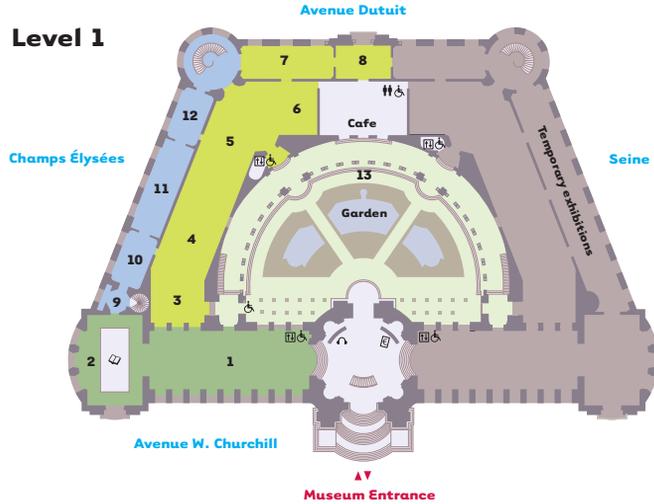
by a unique collection of art from the Eastern Christian church donated by Roger Cabal, making the Petit Palais the holder of the largest collection of icons in France. Ancient Greece, Rome and the Renaissance sit side by side, making it possible to see the connections between them. Dutch paintings are displayed close to Troubadour, Romantic and Symbolist paintings, creating a vast panorama of Western art.

Contemporary art and design are not overlooked in the Petit Palais. Since 1998, works by Zao Wou-Ki, collections from the City's municipal contemporary art archive and Patrick Demarchelier's fashion photography have been exhibited in the museum galleries.

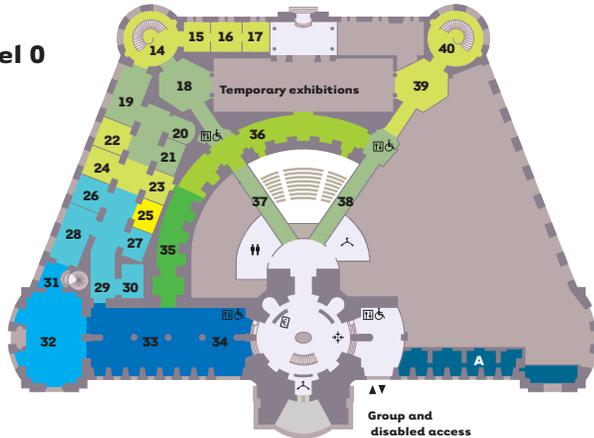
These aesthetic echoes form part of the museum's cultural outline of providing the opportunity to experience beauty, intelligent meaning and the desire to create.

# Tour itinerary

## Level 1



## Level 0



### Paris 1900

- 1 The decorative arts in 1900
- 2 Carrière, Parisian decorative murals
- 18 Moreau and Symbolism
- 19 Carriès, sculptor and potter
- 20 Guimard and Art Nouveau
- 21 Vuillard and the revival of decorative murals
- 37 The Champs-Élysées, from its origins to 1900
- 38 The Petit Palais and its history

### The 19th century

- 3 Roll and Naturalism
- 4 Courbet and Realism
- 5 Dalou and celebration of the Republic
- 6 Doré and the Christian tradition
- 7 Monet and landscape painting
- 8 Cézanne and modernism
- 13 Sculpture under the peristyle
- 14 Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux
- 15 Carpeaux and portraiture
- 16 Realist portraits
- 17 Neoclassical and Romantic portraits
- 22 Historicism
- 23 Delacroix and Romanticism
- 24 Ingres and Troubadour art
- 39 The Paris Universal Exhibitions
- 40 Dalou, the sculptor

### The 18th century

- 9 Portraits
- 10 Art in the reign of Louis XV
- 11 Art in the reign of Louis XV
- 12 Art in the reign of Louis XVI

### The 17th century

- 26 Portraits and figures
- 27 Landscapes
- 28 Landscapes
- 29 Still life
- 30 Historical paintings

### The Renaissance - 16th

- 31 Jewellery and precious metalwork
- 32 Italy, France and Northern Europe

### The Classical World

- 33 Rome and the Roman Empire
- 34 The Greek World

### The Western Christian world

- 35 The Middle Ages and the Renaissance

### The Eastern Christian world

- 36 The art of the icon

### Graphic arts

- 25 Graphic arts
- Temporary exhibitions
- A Educational workshops

- Ticket office
- Information
- Toilets
- Cloakroom - Group cloakroom

- Disabled access
- Lift
- Group meeting point
- Bookshop/Shop



View from the garden

© Didier Messing

## Level 1 and Level 0

### Paris 1900

There was a unique variety of artistic life in Paris around 1900. *Fin de siècle* anxiety inspired the Symbolists (Moreau, Carrière). By rediscovering nature, the glassmaker Emile Gallé, the architect Hector Guimard and the jewellers Lalique and Fouquet revived jewellery and the decorative arts and created the phenomenon of Art Nouveau. Carrière and Cros were unique designers who blurred the boundaries between established and less high-profile art forms. Visionary enthusiasts such as Doctor Vaquez collected avant-garde Post-Impressionist works by the Nabis artists, who were inspired by Japanese art. The ancient world influenced Maillol and Renoir. Several students of Rodin, including Bourdelle and Camille Claudel, moved away from the influence of their master. Cézanne and Bonnard invented Modernism.



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

**Georges Fouquet,**  
*"Fuchsias", necklace*  
circa 1905

**Camille Alaphilippe,**  
*Woman with a monkey,*  
1908



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

**Georges Clairin,**  
*Sarah Bernhardt, 1876*



© Patrick Pierrain/Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

### The 19th century

The beginning of the century is characterised by portraiture (Boilly, Gros). The heralds of Romanticism (Géricault, Delacroix and Chassériau) expressed literary feelings inspired by their travels. Courbet brought a new perspective to the world and his realism is continued by Naturalist painters (Roll, Pelez). Gustave Doré brought his unique approach to the revival of Christian art. Outdoor painters ranging from the Barbizon school to Impressionism (Jongkind, Monet, Pissarro, Sisley) revolutionised landscape painting. Terracotta and plaster works by Carpeaux and Dalou complete this panorama of French nineteenth-century art.

**Fernand Pelez,**  
*Grimaces and wretchedness:*  
*The Entertainers*, detail, 1888



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

**Claude Monet,** *Sunset over the Seine at Lavacourt in winter light*, 1880



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

### The 18th century

Four interconnecting rooms make up the Tuck gallery, named after two major American donors. They are devoted to eighteenth-century art. Amongst rich furniture tracing the development of Rocaille, Transition and Louis XVI periods, Sèvres and Dresden porcelain, French faïence, English enamelwork and silver display the shimmering colours of the European art world.

Works by Boucher, Fragonard, Hubert Robert, Greuze and David testify to the dynamism of French art in this era.



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

**Anonymous,**  
*Éwer*, post 1757

**La Croix (Roger Van Der Cruse),**  
*Writing desk*, 1755-1760



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

**Alexis Grimou,**  
*Young pilgrim woman*,  
1700-1733



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

## Level 0

**Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn,**  
*Portrait of the artist in Eastern costume,*  
1631-1633



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet



Painter of the Judgment of Paris,  
**(Studio of) Maestro Giorgio**  
*Plate of the Judgment of Paris,* 1520.

### The 17th century

As a result of the bequest by the Dutuit brothers in 1902, the Petit Palais holds one of the major French public collections of Flemish and Dutch paintings from the Golden Age. All the major names are represented: Rubens, Rembrandt, Jordaens, Ruysdaël, Hobbema, etc. Two French painters who lived in Rome - Poussin and Claude Lorrain - keep them company. The exceptional collection of drawings and etchings also donated by the Dutuit brothers features in temporary exhibitions.

### The 16th century

Renaissance art from Italy, France and Northern Europe is displayed close to the antiquities galleries for educational purposes. Paintings, furniture, ceramics, glassware, painted enamels, medals, clocks, books and precious bindings mainly from the Dutuit bequest, have been grouped together to provide a rich panorama of European artistic output from the fifteenth century right up to the opening years of the seventeenth century.

## Level 0

### The Western Christian World

This gallery brings together works from the Middle Ages to the early Renaissance period. There are few artefacts, but they are of great significance, demonstrating delicate Gothic ivory work, in addition to the art of goldsmithing and enamel work in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The end of the Middle Ages and the start of the Renaissance are captured in painted enamels from Limoges and a fine collection of Southern German and Austrian wood carvings. There are also several Old Master paintings.

### The Eastern Christian World

Close to works in the Catholic Christian tradition, paintings from the Orthodox tradition are exhibited, notably Greek and Russian icons dating from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century. Roger Cabal's donation of his prestigious collection in 1998 means that the Petit Palais now holds one of the largest public collections in France in this field.



**Northern Russian school**  
*St Nicholas and St Blaise,*  
sixteenth century

© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

**Jacques Daret,** *The Presentation at the Temple,* 1434-1435.



© Petit Palais/Roger Viollet

### The Classical World

The antiquities belonging to the Dutuit collection are characterised by their rarity, virtuosity and technical perfection. There are Greek grave goods from Sala Consilina dating back to circa 520 BC (end of the Archaic era) and a collection of painted vases and bronzes symbolic of Athenian supremacy and Classicism in the fifth century BC. Terracotta and jewellery testify to the originality of artistic communities in the Mediterranean in the fourth century BC. As for Rome, the Epebe from Fins d'Annecy and the Bacchus from the via del Babuino are examples of the Augustan Golden Age. Glassware and goldsmithing works of art demonstrate changes in taste between the first and fourth centuries.



© Petit Palais/Roger-Viollet

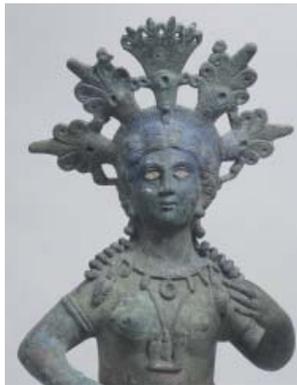
**Polyclète, Epebe**,  
(Roman replica,  
based on  
Polycleitos),  
circa 50-30 BC.

**(Attributed to) a Colmar painter**, *Rhyton in the shape of a donkey's head with bridle*, circa 500-480 BC.



© Petit Palais/Roger-Viollet

**Anonymous, Isis-Aphrodite**, Late second century - early third century



© Petit Palais/Roger-Viollet

### Petit Palais City of Paris Fine Art Museum

Avenue Winston Churchill  
75008 Paris  
Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 43 40 00  
[www.petitpalais.paris.fr](http://www.petitpalais.paris.fr)  
Disabled access.

#### Public Transport

**Métro:** Lines 1 and 13,  
Champs-Élysées Clémenceau station.  
**RER:** Line C, Invalides station,  
Line A, Charles de Gaulle-Etoile station.  
**Bus:** 28, 42, 72, 73, 83, 93.  
**Vélib cycle hire:** avenue Dutuit.

#### Opening Hours

Open daily from 10am to 6pm.  
(except Mondays and public holidays).  
Late night opening Thursday until 8pm  
for temporary exhibitions only.

#### Admission charges

Free admission to the permanent collections.  
Admission charge for temporary exhibitions.

## Facilities



### Petit Palais Garden Cafe

Continuous service from 10am to 5.15pm, closed on Mondays.



### Bookshop and shop

Open from 10am to 6pm, closed on Mondays.

### Group and individual activities

Information and bookings: +33 (0)1 53 43 40 36, Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm. (Programme available at the museum information desk or on request). Charges for activities are in addition to the exhibition admission charge..

### Audio guides

Audio guides provide a comprehensive look at the museum's permanent collections. Available in 5 languages.  
Adult audio guide (French, English, Spanish, German, Italian).  
Family audio guide (French, English, Spanish).  
Hire charge: € 5 at the information desk.

### Room guides

There are detailed guide sheets to the permanent collections available for reference in each gallery.

### Tour booklets

On sale at ticket counters, price € 1.

**For 4-6 year-olds:** *Puzzle trail around the collection.*

**For 7-12 year-olds:** *An awesome palace. A fun look at everything you need to know about the architecture of the Petit Palais.*

### Lecture Theatre

Program details available at the information desk.