

Antoine Caron (1521-1599). The Theatre of History

5 April - 3 July 2023

Exhibition at the Musée national de la Renaissance - Château d'Écouen (Val-d'Oise)

The exhibition *Antoine Caron (1521-1599). The Theatre of History*, coproduced with the RMN-GP, aims to return one of the most influential French artists of the second half of the 16th century to the front of the stage. It is a continuation of the major exhibitions and monographic research of the past twenty years by the Musée du Louvre and the most prestigious exhibitions of the Musée National de la Renaissance that have examined the dialogue between the arts. Although Antoine Caron worked for five monarchs, from François I to Henri IV, and for the Queen Mother Catherine de' Medici, no exhibition worthy of his reputation during his lifetime has ever been devoted to his career. With works by Antoine Caron and his circle (paintings, manuscripts, drawings, prints, tapestries...) some never before shown to the public, the exhibition will illustrate the multiple facets of this forgotten artist's genius and influence, as well as the versatility of the profession of painter during the Renaissance. For this exhibition, the eight episodes of the Valois Tapestries series, commissioned by Catherine de' Medici, will be displayed together in France for the first time since the 16th century.



Antoine Caron, Dionysius the Areopagite Converting the Pagan Pilosophers, Los Angeles, The J. Paul Getty Museum (royalty free)

Innovative Content and Exceptional Loans

Bringing together over 90 works at the Château d'Écouen in a building and setting that are contemporary with Antoine Caron's work, the exhibition analyses the position of this artist inextricably linked with the French Renaissance as an inventor and provider of models, whose influence continued long after his death. The exhibition examines the artist's profile in the context of his training around the works at the Château de Fontainebleau, in particular through his deep connection with Italian artists such as Primaticcio (1503-1570) and Niccolò dell'Abate (1509-1571). The exchanges between painting, drawing, sculpture, and tapestry will receive particular attention. In this context, the loan granted by the Galleria degli Uffizi Florence of the famous Valois Tapestries is emblematic. This series was woven in Brussels for Catherine de' Medici and has never returned to France in its entirety in over four centuries. Implicitly, fascinating issues of Renaissance art are woven together: the role of drawing, relations between artist and patron, the traditional frontiers between major and minor arts, and between artist and artisan. The exhibition has benefited from the support of the most important French (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Musée du Louvre, Mobilier National, Musée d'Arts de Nantes, Mucem de Marseille...) and international (Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Courtauld Gallery, London...) institutions.

PRESS CONTACT:

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Images available on request or can be found in the [FOLDER](#)

During the exhibition, the Musée National de la Renaissance - Château d'Écouen has organized a **specific cultural programme** combining music, poetry and dance.

Published by the RMN-GP, a **catalogue**, written by the major experts of the period bring showcase this little known aspect of French creation from the second half of the 16th century to the early years of the 17th, called the Grand Siècle.

This exhibition is part of a shared project with the Musée de l'Armée and the Musée Condé in Chantilly around Pomp and Tragedy.

Curator: Matteo Gianceselli, Curator at the Musée National de la Renaissance - Château d'Écouen

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Musée national de la Renaissance - château d'Écouen - 95440 Écouen

Tél. : + 33 1 34 38 38 50

Open every day except Tuesdays and 1 May

From 9.30a.m. to 12.45p.m. and from 2p.m. to 5.15p.m. (5.45p.m. from 16 April to 30 September).

www.musee-rennaissance.fr

Entry Fees (co-production RMN-GP):

Full price: 7€ - Reduced: 5.50 €

How to get to the Château d'Écouen?

By train: 20 minutes by train from the Gare du Nord suburban lines (line H or RER D). Then a 15 minute walk through the forest or bus 269 (direction Garges-Sarcelles –Mairie-Château Stop)

Holders of the Passe Navigo can travel to the museum without paying a supplement

By car: 19 km from Paris. Autoroute A1 from the Porte de la Chapelle

Exit Francilienne (N104), towards Cergy-Pontoise, then take the Écouen (RD316) exit

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