

The Valois Tapestries

The *Valois Tapestries* were probably commissioned by Catherine de Medici. She then gave it to her granddaughter Christine of Lorraine, when she married Ferdinand I de Medici. The eight tapestries have not been seen together since they arrived in Florence in 1589. Their presentation side by side, in a setting that is contemporary with their creation is truly exceptional.

The compositions are connected with several drawings by Caron created around 1573-1574 under Charles IX. When they were woven, under Henri III, his successor's reign, it became an impressive gallery of portraits of the royal family and the court surrounded by magnificent festivities. Catherine de Medici collected many portraits. Here we see her constant openness beyond the royal family towards the powerful houses of the kingdom.

In the context of international competition, she also sought to rival with the most prestigious dynastic tapestry series, narrating the major events of important European personalities.