

## **The Valois Tapestries**

Wandering through the gallery you can understand the complex genesis of the tapestry series that was probably made by the workshops of Willem de Pannemaker in Brussels. The weavers had to have a variety of types of sources, evoked on the lecterns, including drawings by Caron or copies, engraved, drawn, or painted portraits.

The series was woven between 1575, when Henri III ascended the throne and the end of the 1570s, which is confirmed by the costumes. The festivities of Charles IX are transposed and set under Henri III, in a strategic mixing of time periods. The highlights of Charles IX's court are celebrated under his brother's reign like the reincarnation of a true golden age.

In the tormented context of the wars of religion, the tapestry series responds to a dynastic and diplomatic programme. While the monarchy was seriously weakened, an attempt is made to forget family discord in order to create a fantasy image of brilliance and unity, borne realistically by the queen mother for her children and her kingdom.