



CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

PRESS KIT 2024



[CMN – International press](#)



CONTENTS



[Some 100 monuments in France](#)



[National and UNESCO monuments](#)



[CMN and Sport](#)



[CMN Exhibitions](#)



[CMN and Civics](#)



[CMN and Gastronomy](#)



[CMN and the French Language](#)



[CMN All Dressed Up](#)



[CMN and Innovation](#)



[CMN Construction and Restoration Work](#)



[The CMN Family](#)

[Collections](#)

[Resources](#)

[More to the CMN](#)

[Your contacts](#)

PARIS ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

1. Arc de Triomphe
2. Sainte-Chapelle
3. Conciergerie
4. Panthéon
5. Hôtel de la Marine
6. Chapelle Expiatoire
7. July Column
8. Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis
9. Château de Vincennes
10. Château de Champs-sur-Marne
11. Château de Maisons in Maisons-Laffitte
12. Villa Savoye in Poissy
13. Maison des Jardies in Sèvres
14. Château de Rambouillet, Queen's Dairy and Shell Cottage
15. National Estate of Saint-Cloud

NORTH-EASTERN FRANCE

16. Villa Cavrois
17. Column of the Grande Armée in Wimille
18. Château de Pierrefonds
19. Château of Coucy
20. Cité Internationale de la Langue Française in Villers-Cotterêts
21. Towers and treasury of Amiens Cathedral
22. Palais du Tau in Reims
23. Towers of Reims Cathedral
24. Château de La Motte-Tilly
25. Château de Haroué
26. Cluny Abbey
27. Chapelle des Moines in Berzé-la-Ville
28. Château de Bussy-Rabutin
29. Astronomical clock of Besançon Cathedral

SOUTH-EASTERN FRANCE

30. Cathedral Complex of Le Puy-en-Velay
31. Château of Villeneuve-Lembron
32. Château d'Aulteribe
33. Château of Chareil-Cintrat
34. Royal Monastery of Brou in Bourg-en-Bresse
35. Château of Voltaire in Ferney
36. Château d'If
37. Abbey of Montmajour
38. Archaeological site of Glanum
39. Le Thoronet Abbey
40. Fréjus Cathedral Cloister
41. Trophy of Augustus in La Turbie
42. Villa Kérylos

43. Cap Moderne, Eileen Gray and Le Corbusier in Cap Martin

44. Monastery of Saorge

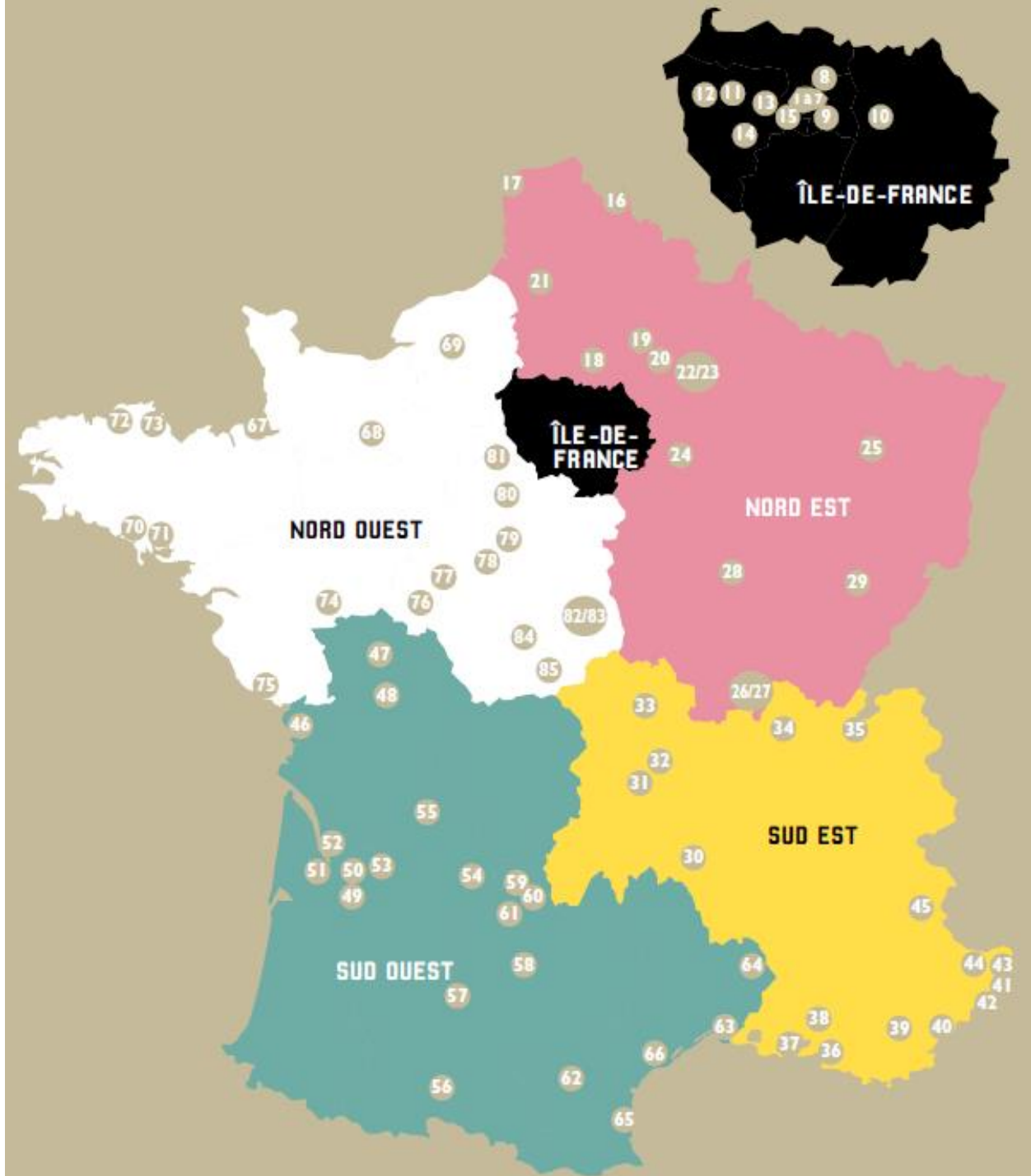
45. Mont-Dauphin Stronghold

SOUTH-WESTERN FRANCE

46. Towers of La Rochelle
47. Château of Oiron
48. Gallo-Roman site of Sanxay
49. Château of Cadillac
50. Abbey of La Sauve Majeure
51. Tower of Pey Berland in Bordeaux
52. Cave of Pair-non-Pair
53. Archaeological site of Montcaret
54. Eyzies-de-Tayac
55. Château of Puyguilhem
56. Archaeological site of Montmaurin
57. Château of Gramont
58. Abbey of Beaulieu-en-Rouergue
59. Château of Castelnaud-Bretenoux
60. Château de Montal
61. Château of Assier
62. Carcassonne castle and ramparts
63. Aigues-Mortes towers and ramparts
64. Fort Saint-André in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon
65. Fortress of Salses
66. Archaeological site of Ensérune

NORTH-WESTERN FRANCE

67. Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel
68. Château of Carrouges
69. Abbey of Bec-Hellouin
70. Carnac alignments
71. Megalithic Site of Locmariaquer
72. Grand Cairn of Barnenez
73. Ernest Renan's House in Tréguier
74. Château of Angers
75. Georges Clémenceau's House in Saint-Vincent-sur-Jard
76. Château of Azay-le-Rideau
77. Cloister of La Psalette
78. Château of Fougères-sur-Bièvre
79. Château of Talcy
80. Château of Châteaudun
81. Towers of Chartres Cathedral
82. Jacques Cœur Palace in Bourges
83. Cathedral of Bourges Crypt and Tower
84. Château de Bouges
85. House of George Sand in Nohant



The Centre des monuments nationaux:



More than **11 million** visitors a year

More than **110** monuments

Free admission for under-18s and under-26s from EU countries

79 bookshop-boutiques

450 events a year

79 monuments available for e-ticketing

National and UNESCO monuments

19 national monuments on the World Heritage List: Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, Sauve-Majeure Abbey, Amiens Cathedral, Bourges Cathedral, Chartres Cathedral, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, Reims Cathedral, Conciergerie, Le Puy-en-Velay Cathedral complex, Castle and ramparts of the Cité de Carcassonne, Château d'Azay-le-Rideau, Palais du Tau, Sainte-Chapelle, Tour Pey-Berland, Cap Moderne, Villa Savoye, Fortified village of Mont-Dauphin, Prehistoric sites in the Vézère Valley

The Apocalypse Tapestry at the Château d'Angers national estate was included in UNESCO's Memory of the World register in 2023.

Did you know...?

The first French sites were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. They include the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, Chartres Cathedral and the prehistoric sites of the Vézère Valley.



[Find out more](#)



Château and île d'If, aerial view from the west © We are Content(s) / Centre des monuments nationaux

2024

CMN and Sport

Our monuments will host the Olympic Torch Relay

This year, 2024, the French Centre des monuments nationaux proudly announces that several of its monuments will play a role in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Beginning 8 May 2024, 23 monuments will appear along the routes of the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays.

The Olympic Torch will be lit in Olympia, Greece, on 16 April 2024, according to the ancient tradition. After a 12-day relay through Greece, then a passage across the Mediterranean Sea aboard the famous three-masted ship *Belem*, the Torch will officially arrive in France on 8 May 2024, heralding the return of the Olympic Games after 100 years of waiting. With a route set by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, the Olympic Torch Relay will be a one-of-a-kind event that will showcase 21 monuments of the Centre des monuments nationaux across France. Through these 21 sites, the Olympic Torch Relay will highlight the beauty and diversity of the CMN's monuments and will offer the public opportunities to discover cultural sites imbued with local flavour.

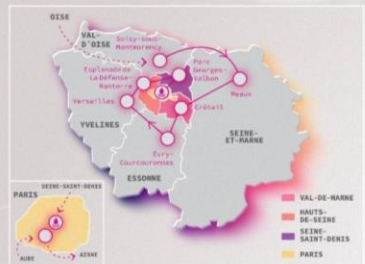
To learn more about the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays:
<https://www.paris2024.org/en/>



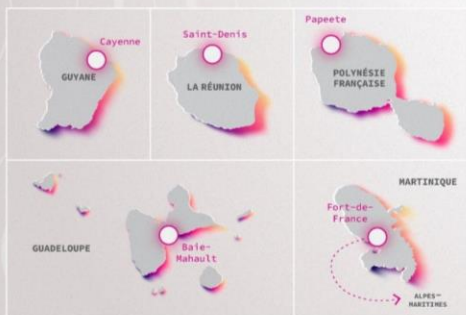


RELAIS DE LA FLAMME OLYMPIQUE

14 > 15 juillet Paris
19 > 26 juillet Île-de-France



08 > 17 juin
Le Relais des Océans



07
juin
vers Le Relais
des Océans

18
juin
depuis
Le Relais
des Océans

08
mai
depuis
La Grèce

DU 8 MAI AU 26 JUILLET 2024

○ Ville Étape

○ Départ du Relais

○ Arrivée du Relais

THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS LOCATED NEAR THE ROUTE OF THE OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

- Château d'If, Wednesday 8 May 2024
- The castle and ramparts of the citadel of Carcassonne, Thursday 16 May 2024
- Tower of Pey Berland in Bordeaux, Thursday 23 May 2024
- Abbey of Charroux, Saturday 25 May 2024
- Château of Angers, Tuesday 28 May 2024
- Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, Friday 31 May 2024
- Reims Cathedral, Sunday 30 June 2024
- Amiens Cathedral, Thursday 4 July 2024
- Chartres Cathedral, Friday 7 July 2024
- Château of Châteaudun, Friday 7 July 2024
- Château of La Motte Tilly, Saturday 13 July 2024
- The towers of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Sunday 14 July 2024
- The Panthéon, Sunday 14 July 2024
- The July Column at Paris' Place de la Bastille, Sunday 14 July 2024
- The Arc de Triomphe, Monday 15 July 2024
- The Cité internationale de la langue française at the Château de Villers-Cotterêts, Wednesday 17 July 2024
- Château de Vincennes, Sunday 21 July 2024
- Villa Savoye, Tuesday 23 July 2024
- Château de Rambouillet, Tuesday 23 July 2024
- The Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis, 25 and 26 July 2024

Route of the Paralympic Torch Relay

For their 17th edition, the Paralympic Games will take place over 12 days, from 28 August to 8 September 2024. Bringing together 4,400 competitors and over 3 million spectators, they will showcase exceptional athletes through not only competitions, but also cultural and artistic performances.

After arriving on the French coast in the city of Calais, the Paralympic Torch will be divided into 12 flames to travel all across France. The 12 flames will symbolise the energy of the 12 days that will make up the first Summer Paralympic Games to be hosted in France: the day of the cauldron lighting on 28 August 2024 and the 11 days of competition.

These flames will illuminate certain sites of the Centre des monuments nationaux, namely:

- Chartres Cathedral, Monday 26 August 2024
- Amiens Cathedral, Monday 26 August 2024
- The National Estate of Saint-Cloud, Tuesday 27 August 2024
- The Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis, Tuesday 27 August 2024
- The July Column at Paris' Place de la Bastille, Wednesday 28 August 2024
- Hôtel de Sully, Wednesday 28 August 2024
- Hôtel de la Marine: Opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games, Wednesday 28 August 2024



The CMN, a key player in the Cultural Olympiad

The Cultural Olympiad is an interdisciplinary arts and culture programme that will run until September 2024 across France. France's Regional Offices for Cultural Affairs (DRACs) are helping develop the programme, providing grants to project organisers who will bring "art and sport" into dialogue and showcase the values of the Olympic Movement. The Organising Committee of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games is overseeing the development of the cultural programme, with assistance from France's Ministry of Culture and its offices across the country's various regions.

In collaboration with local and regional authorities and with promoters of culture, the DRACs are helping build this programme, which will bring art and sport into dialogue with one another to reflect the vitality of artistic creation and to showcase the wealth of our cultural heritage through inclusive and interactive artistic works presented all over France for as broad an audience as possible.

The Cultural Olympiad is an official designation awarded by the Organising Committee of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Centre des monuments nationaux is a partner of the Cultural Olympiad and has planned a sports programme to be presented at its monuments. It will be a marathon of events across France, with exhibitions focussing on sport, dance and art performances, contemporary creations and sports workshops.

The programmes at the following monuments have received official Cultural Olympiad designation:

- Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel
- The Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis
- Castle and ramparts of the citadel of Carcassonne
- Château d'If
- Panthéon



Art installations

Flux Marins by Miguel Chevalier

8 May – 30 September 2024

Miguel Chevalier is the creator behind *Flux Marins*, an artistic piece to be projected onto the exterior walls of the Château d'If lighthouse, the oldest royal fortification on the islands just off the coast from Marseille.

A pioneer of digital art, Chevalier will bring his virtual world to life with a highly visual, monumental work of art that will be visible from both near and far.

Flux Marins evokes the contours of a landscape, or topographical maps of the seafloor. This piece invites viewers to dream of exploring new worlds.

In addition to the monumental projection, within the castle's cells, Chevalier will present a "cabinet of curiosities," as well as a digital projection on the same theme, offering audiences an immersive experience.



Château d'If, lighthouse © P. Müller / Centre des monuments nationaux

Electronic music and dance performance

Room with a view by Compagnie La Horde

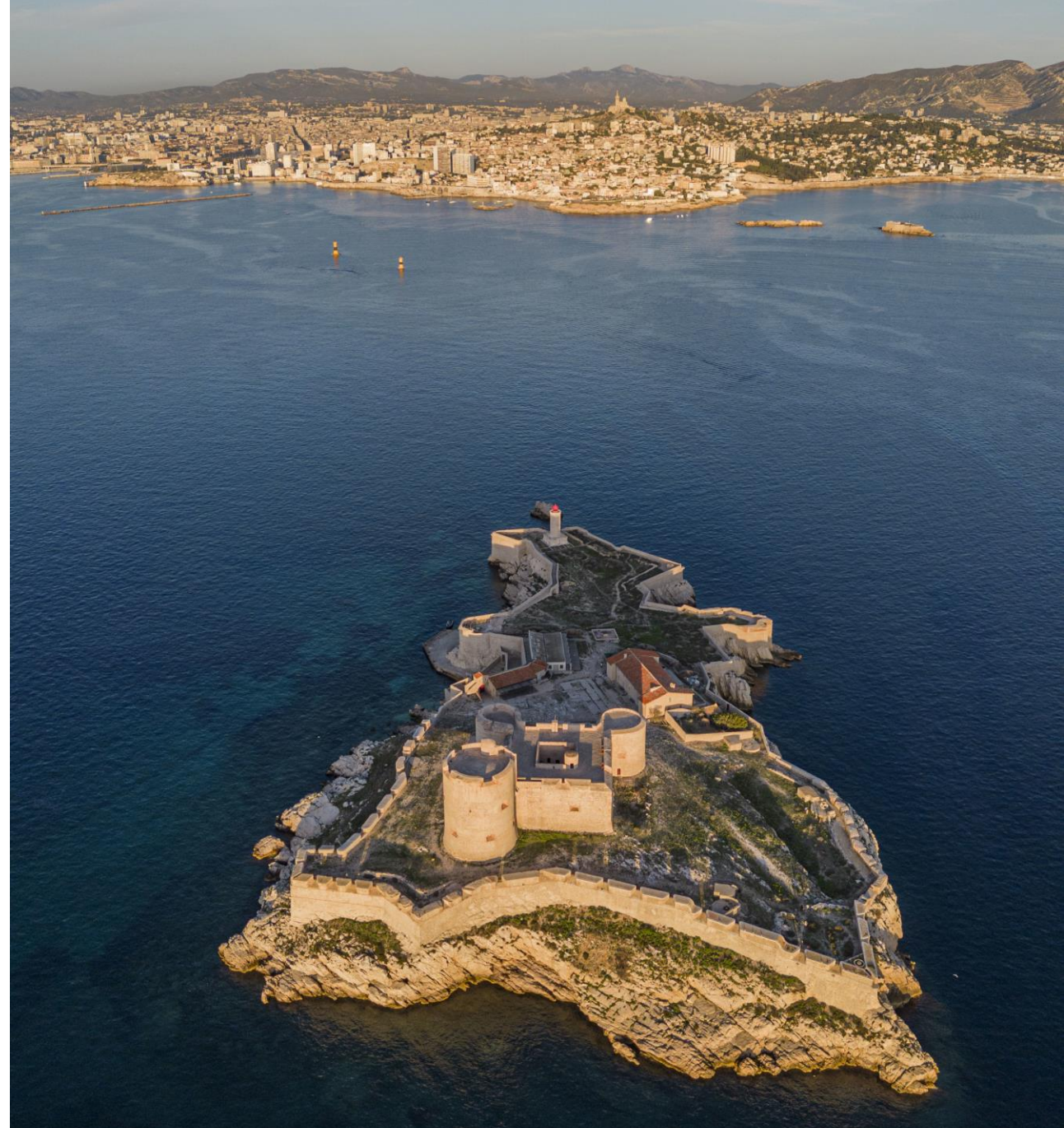
8 and 9 May 2024; Duration: 1 hr 15 min

Music by Rone (music recorded for the event)

With the Ballet National de Marseille

The Château d'If is an emblematic fortress, sitting on the horizon of Marseille's harbour, that symbolizes both imprisonment and the possibility of escape. In this performance, the choreography melds with the clamour of the electronic music to tell a story of the suffering and righteous anger of current generations coming together to find meaning in communities of celebration and of collective struggle. This performance aims to be a wake-up call, a call to action brought on by the overwhelming vision of collapse communicated by the physical connections between the dancers and the energy they project.

PRESS KIT 2024



Dance performance

Passage of the Olympic Torch at Mont-Saint-Michel

La tentative du ciel by Compagnie Hors Surface, Damien Droin

31 May 2024

Presentation of a circus/dance performance, in fixed locations and travelling across the site from 10 a.m. to midnight

Directed by choreographer Damien Droin and performed by students from the ENACR circus arts academy, *La tentative du ciel* (French for “reaching for the heavens”) presents an age-old, intimate and collective dream. To conquer the heavens has a different meaning for everyone, whether it be to take flight or to oneself up. Although the myth of Icarus warns us against pursuing this wild dream, the Greeks cultivated the idea of transcending the self in order to reach the realm of the gods, Olympus. This quest is embodied by the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which bring together the gods of sport—athletes who put all of their physical and mental strength into achieving great feats and pursuing victory.

La tentative du ciel draws inspiration from sport to develop different metaphors for these quests for greatness. The great physical efforts and feats of the performers gradually break away from the codes and rules of competition to deliver an expression of freedom. In this performance, a series of movements telling a story of ascension are organised into different tableaux.

The Ancient Greeks chose neutral, sacred ground, the sanctuaries of Olympia at the foot of Mount Kronos, as a place for athletes to demonstrate their physical prowess. Echoing that choice, Mont-Saint-Michel is an emblematic site in France that invites one and all to reach for the heavens thanks to its topography and its history of connecting people with the sacred. The company’s artistic performance will travel around to visit audiences in different locations, starting from La Caserne and making its way across the bridge and to the island. The route covers several kilometres and offers a progression towards a poetic expression of a physical feat, at all times crossed with the grace of a torch which, like the sword of Saint Michael, will project a beam of light up to the heavens. Athletes and circus performers will meld their movements with the landscape using equipment hidden in the natural environment, giving their feats a touch of the supernatural. As the performers draw closer to the island, the tableaux will take on more developed form, with equipment allowing the artists to climb to new heights in different ways: a grand staircase taking them up to the infinity of space, long, invisible walls on which they will climb, poles and trampolines that will allow them to soar above the world.



Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, aerial view of the abbey's church from the west © Christian Gluckman / Centre des monuments nationaux



Nighttime performance *Signes de Crêtes, L'Atelier des franchissements* and *La cour des lumières* by **Compagnie Retouramont**

16 May 2024

The vertical dance company Retouramont will take over the fortress of Carcassonne and accompany the Olympic Torch on its visit to the monument.

This event, welcoming all people, will combine contemplative moments with audience participation: equipment will raise dancers and visitors over the impenetrable ramparts of the city. New passages through the air and never-before-seen views will transform their perceptions of the site.

After the lighting of the Olympic cauldron, an evening performance will keep the magic going as the Olympic spirit unites with the vertical dance of Retouramont.

The day of activities will include three different elements, each allowing audiences to see Carcassonne in a whole new light:

- *Signes de Crêtes*: a travelling dance performance along the route of the Olympic Torch.
- *L'Atelier des franchissements*: a zip line will transport audience members across the castle's ramparts.
- *La Cour des Lumières*: a nocturnal immersive performance within the walls of the Château Comtal (Count's Château).

The 20 dancers and other performers will hang their equipment from the plane trees. The artists' actions will produce monumental shadows onto the tall walls, alongside video images. Spectators will find themselves immersed in this augmented choreography which will completely change the way they view the site.

Danser l'avenir

Dance performance

Château de Vincennes

08 June 2024

This event of the Cultural Olympiad aims to draw around 1,800 people from rural and disadvantaged areas of France to participate in the Olympic movement through an artistic performance combining dance, horses belonging to the Cadre Noir de Saumur, and a symphony orchestra, during the passage of the Torch of Culture.

For the event, the Château de Vincennes will host in its court of honour a dance performance by 2,024 public-school students from the suburbs of Paris. This contemporary performance is the result of artistic, cultural and sporting collaboration between the Orchestre National d'Île de France, the Musée de Cluny, the Garde Républicaine, the instructors of the Cadre Noir de Saumur, and the association Danser l'Avenir, along with public-school students from the Académie de Créteil.

The artistic piece draws inspiration from *The Lady and the Unicorn*, the famous tapestry woven in 1500 and on display at the Musée de Cluny, considered to be one of the greatest masterpieces of Western art. To accompany the choreography, the Orchestre National d'Île-de-France will perform Arnold Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* in a version for a full string orchestra.



Circus arts performance by Compagnie Fratellini (Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque)

Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis

29 June 2024

To celebrate the passage of the Olympic Torch, the Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis will present a circus arts performance by the Académie Fratellini. Two students of the École Supérieure des Arts du Cirque will perform in the basilica's nave, with their aerial rope and balancing act entering into dialogue with the majestic space and the monument's architecture.

The intimate performance will be followed outside in the square in front of the basilica by a totally different artistic show: a dance and acrobatics performance by the dance company Mazelfreten, accompanied by 10 first-year students of the circus arts school. This urban hip-hop electro dance performance will spread its joyful energy to the audience, with all of the generosity of the circus performers and young dancers of Mazelfreten.

Additionally, during Académie Fratellini's visit to Saint-Denis, an introduction to circus arts will be offered to youth from Aubervilliers in conjunction with Compagnie Basinga, creating a link with the performance at the basilica.



[Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis](#)



Basilica of Saint-Denis, recumbent statues seen from the southern semitranssept © Pascal Lemaître / Centre des monuments nationaux

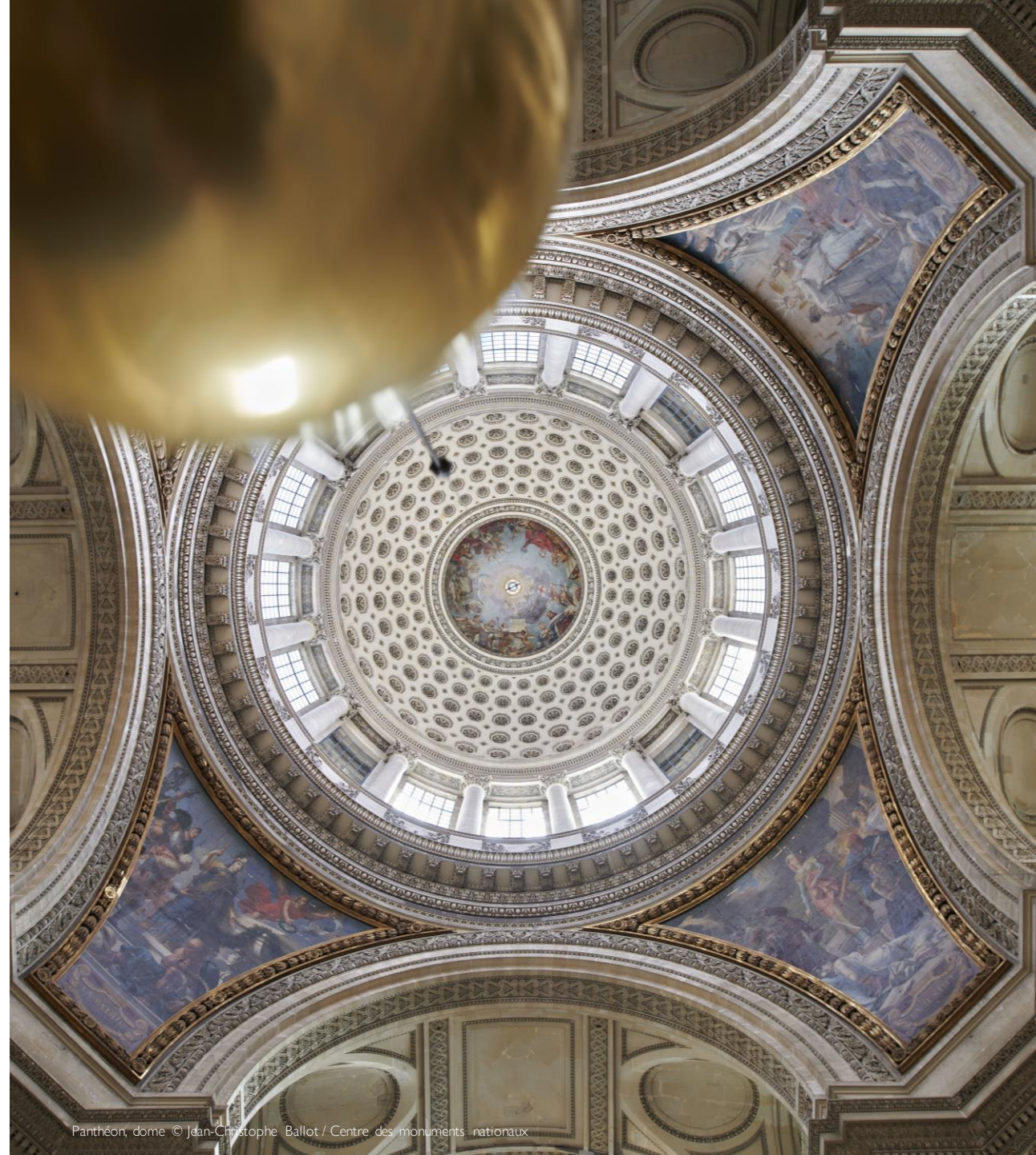
Paralympic History: From integration in sport to social inclusion (1848-2024)

From 11 June to 29 September 2024

First appearing in the mid-20th century, the “Paralympic” Games have come a long way in a short period of time. How do we explain this success? To answer that question, this exhibition explores two areas of transformation that have marked the history of the Paralympic movement: the gradual diversification of the disabilities of the athletes involved and the evolution of the discourse and meaning attached to the competitions organised and presented.

The exhibition will be organised chronologically, highlighting four major moments in history:

- The “Stoke Mandeville Games” at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in the United Kingdom, with which Dr Ludwig Guttmann started the Paralympic movement with an innovative experiment to promote sport as a form of rehabilitation (1948-1960).
- The first Paralympic Games in Rome, in 1960, which were reserved for people with spinal cord injuries. After this, the Paralympics gradually began adding the official participation of other people with disabilities: amputees, then the blind and vision-impaired. Finally, in 1989, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) was founded.
- This started a third period in the history of the Paralympics, that of a new Paralympic movement that opened the door to deaf athletes and athletes with intellectual disabilities. At the same time, the movement also saw the rise of new ways of thinking about Paralympic athletes, along with new Paralympic figures embodying those ideas, such as the “Paralympic cyborg” (or the “supercrip”) and the “fake Paralympian.”
- The London 2012 Paralympic Games was a turning point, with the Paralympics becoming a large-scale event for inclusion and pride, marking the start of a new era in which the media seized on the Paralympic Games to present athletic performances like people had never seen before.



Exhibition

The Olympic Movement, the French Language and Francophone Cultures

Cité Internationale de la Langue Française -
Château de Villers-Cotterêts

From June to September 2024

The Centre des monuments nationaux and the Cité Internationale de la Langue Française proudly present a travelling exhibition entitled “The Olympic Movement, the French Language and Francophone Cultures,” in partnership with the Musée National du Sport, CREPS Reims Sport and the Alliance Française (CAVILAM Vichy). The exhibition will take place on the ground of the château, in the Service Courtyard. It aims to promote the French language, France’s intangible sports heritage and the humanistic values embodied by sport and the richness of the French language.





Tour de France 2024

Amaury Sport Organisation (A.S.O.), a subsidiary of the Amaury media group, organises world-class international sporting events each year. Across Amaury’s 40 events, totalling 250 days of competition per year, A.S.O. also incorporates a dimension of social responsibility, which takes the form of initiatives relating to the environment, safety and solidarity.

As partners on the Tour de France since 2013, the Centre des monuments nationaux and A.S.O. work together each year to combine sport with culture. As it makes its way across France, the Tour de France exposes its passionate viewers to some of the emblematic monuments in the CMN’s network. Additionally, the backdrop to the legendary finish of the cyclists on the Avenue des Champs-Élysées is an iconic CMN monument: the Arc de Triomphe.

What’s more, the CMN aims to guarantee that its monuments will be welcoming to tourists travelling by bike along France’s cycling routes by offering special services and equipment adapted to their needs. Cyclists can identify these bike-friendly sites thanks to the posting of their “Accueil vélo” certification. Thanks to the support of A.S.O., the CMN has already equipped the Ensérune archaeological site and museum (34) with bicycle stands, and plans to install them at the Cité internationale de la langue française, the Château de Villers-Cotterêts (02) and the Château de Pierrefonds (60).



Les Sports en France de l'Antiquité à nos jours

Une histoire,
un patrimoine

Sport in France from antiquity to present day: a book from *Editions du Patrimoine*

From the everyday to the elite, from amateurs to professionals, sport has marked and transformed society. It has led to the creation of unique spaces for training, socialising, distinguishing oneself, recreation and more. This book offers a history of the various equipment designed for individual and team sports and how they've been introduced and evolved over time. Covering topics from physical well-being to physical and civic education, from major competitions to entertainment, and not to forget the rise of leisure activities, this volume shows how sport has gradually taken on an important role in French society. It also describes the emergence of forms of architecture with which we are all now familiar (e.g. gymnasiums, swimming pools and stadiums). Designed at all different scales and found all over France, the architecture of sport, ranging from the ordinary to the extraordinary, now represents a remarkable body of public assets. The five parts of the book trace the history in chronological order, covering cultural, political, technical and aesthetic aspects. Pieces focussing on particular points deepen the analysis, while each chapter offers a study of a selection of buildings chosen for their patrimonial or architectural value. This book has been published with support from the French Ministry of Culture's Division for heritage and architecture.

Authors

Franck Delorme is an architect by training, with a doctorate in art history, as well as a historian of architecture and associate curator at the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, where he is in charge of the preservation of architects' archives.



Villa Kérylos © Colombe Clier / Centre des monuments nationaux

2024

CMN Exhibitions

Journey through stones and light, photographs by the artist Ahmet Ertuğ

Conciergerie (Paris), from 9 February to 20 May 2024

From Saint Sophia in Istanbul to Saint Peter's in the Vatican, Ahmet Ertuğ travels the world in search of the finest examples of ancient architecture, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman or Christian,

Byzantine, Ottoman and Christian architecture that illustrate the three principles established by the theorist Vitruvius: durability (firmitas), utility (utilitas) and beauty (venustas).

Using large-format cameras and negatives (20x25 cm), long-exposure techniques, and drawing on the expertise of his architectural eye

Ahmet Ertuğ's photographs capture what makes architecture monumental, and what contributes to the spirit of the place in the smallest detail.

For this exhibition at the Conciergerie, the choice fell on shots of French and Italian monuments.



Love for the Renaissance: A dialogue between collections

Hôtel de la Marine (Paris), from 6 March to 30 June 2024

As part of its programme, [The Al Thani Collection](#) at the Hôtel de la Marine offers two temporary exhibitions per year. This year, one of them will be *Le Goût de la Renaissance. Un dialogue entre collections* (Love for the Renaissance: A dialogue between collections).

The second of three exhibitions organised in collaboration with the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#), the programme pays tribute to the **exceptional inventiveness** and **virtuosity** of **Renaissance art**. It also examines the fascination that the art movement has inspired in collectors for centuries.

Bringing together **masterpieces from the Victoria and Albert Museum and from the Al Thani Collection**, the exhibition sheds light on the connections across the Renaissance era, an age where exploration and discovery encouraged the exchange of materials and ideas across Europe and with far-flung places. For the first time since the Al Thani Collection opened, the works presented in its four galleries will be entirely updated.

As **ideas and aesthetics inherited from antiquity** drew renewed interest during the Renaissance, rich patrons commissioned **major works of art**, which have since been prized by history's greatest collectors.

Bringing together **over 130 works**, the exhibition puts on display sculptures, works of goldsmithery, jewellery, glass works, textiles, books, manuscripts, paintings, drawings and exotic objects which, for many of them, have never been shown in Paris.

These include works from **Antico, Lucas Cranach the Younger, François Clouet, Vittore Crivelli, Donatello, Nicholas Hilliard, Hans Holbein the Younger and Leonardo da Vinci**, along with exceptional artistic pieces commissioned from the most talented artists of the period by patrons from royal families and the upper echelons of the aristocracy.



Arman at Villa Kérylos, curated by Cécile Debray, Director of the Musée National Picasso in Paris

Villa Kérylos (Nice), Spring 2024

From 28 April to 22 September 2024, Villa Kérylos will host an exhibition dedicated to the works of the artist Arman. Complementing the permanent collections, works of visual art, including sculptures of bronze and resin, from one of the greatest representatives of the École de Nice will be on display and shown in a whole new light. The nostalgia found in the sculptor's works will be juxtaposed with the spirit of the Villa, which is itself steeped in the tragic history of the Reinach family. The many references to antiquity, revisited by both the artist and the designers of Villa Kérylos, will also underscore the real modernity of Villa Kérylos.



Villa Kérylos



Fabrice Hyber

Villa Cavrois

Villa Cavrois (Croix/ Lille), Spring – Summer 2024

After installing his “green men” in the fountain at Paris’ Palais Royal to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of his “Homme de Bessines,” artist Fabrice Hyber is now taking over the reflecting pool at Villa Cavrois. For the occasion, the artist will present several other works at the monument.

A player in the international art scene for two decades now, Fabrice Hyber produces his works through accumulation, proliferation and hybridisation, and constantly transitions between the disciplines of drawing, painting, sculpture, installations and video, as well as business and commerce.

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Villa Cavrois



Villa Cavrois, southern façade seen from the reflecting pool © Colombe Clier / Centre des monuments nationaux

Sean Scully Château d'Oiron

Château d'Oiron (Nouvelle-Aquitaine), Summer 2024

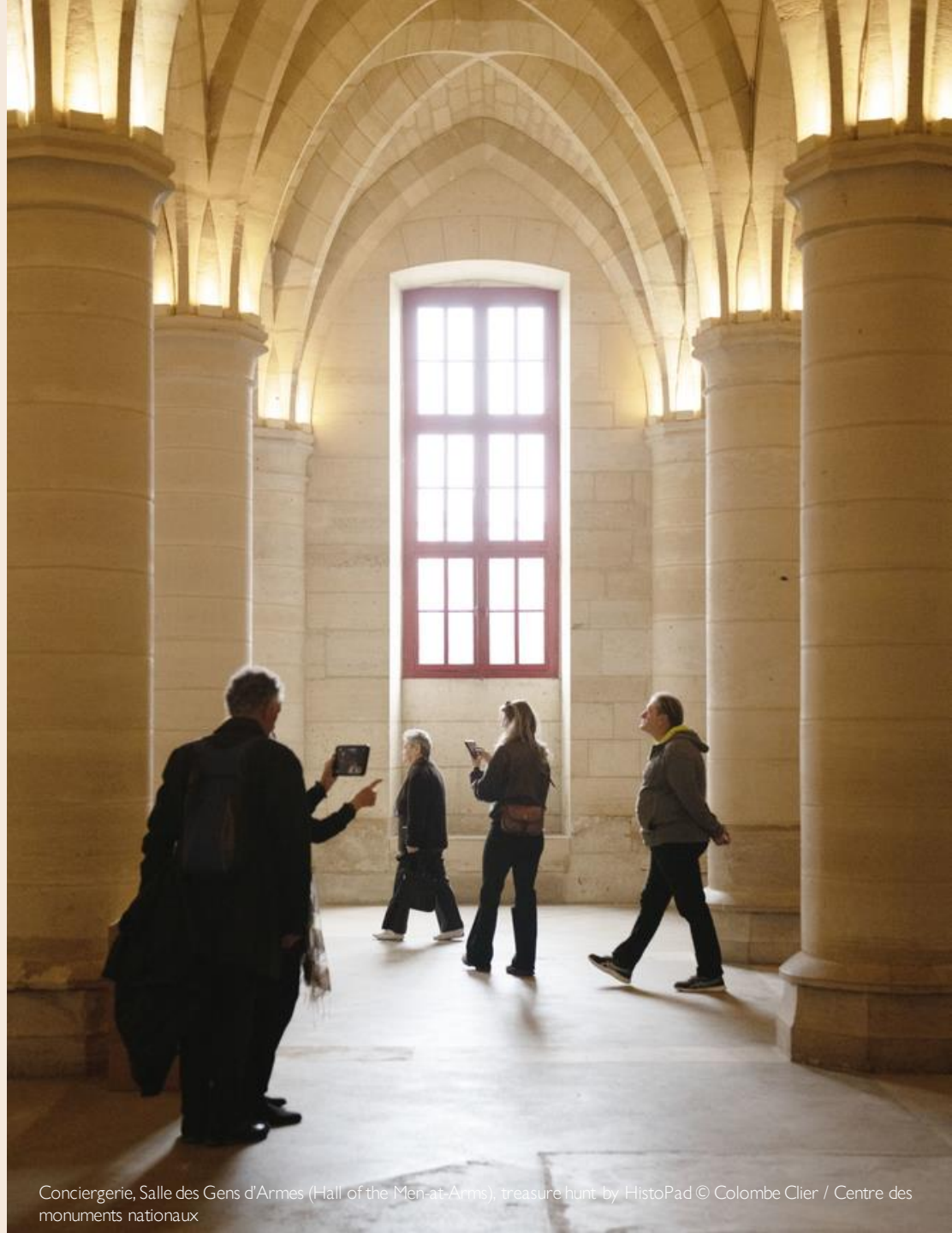
For several years now, the CMN has been working on a project to collaborate with abstract artist Sean Scully, in dialogue with Jill Silverman and the Kewenig art gallery.

After visits to Paris' Conciergerie and Palais Royal, the Château d'Oiron was finally selected to host the project, which will have two components:

- a temporary exhibition of drawings and
- the creation of a permanent sculpture.

Irish-American artist Sean Scully (born 1945) is one of the most significant representatives of abstract art. Strongly inspired by the works of Mark Rothko, Sean Scully has created a visual language compartmented into solid, coloured rectangles. In painting, he superimposes different tones, particularly browns, blacks and reds, using a broad brush. He creates monumental sculptures formed with prisms made of blocks of stone, weathering steel or salvaged materials. Today, his works are on display at over 80 museums and public spaces around the world.





Conciergerie, Salle des Gens d'Armes (Hall of the Men-at-Arms), treasure hunt by HistoPad © Colombe Clier / Centre des monuments nationaux

Honouring Benin at the Conciergerie and Hôtel de la Marine (Paris)

In autumn 2024, two major exhibitions focussing on Benin will be held in Paris.

An exhibition at the [Conciergerie](#) will bring together around **40 living artists** and around 100 works, spanning painting, sculpture, drawing, photo, video, installations, performance, fashion design and more.

At the [Hôtel de la Marine](#), the Al Thani Collection will host an exhibition on the theme of the **royal arts of the Kingdom of Dahomey** (the former kingdom corresponding to the modern-day geographical area of the Republic of Benin), which will bring together around 70 works.



Panthéon, seen from Rue Soufflot © Jean-Christophe Ballot / Centre des monuments nationaux

2024
CMN and Civics

The interment of Missak Manouchian at the Panthéon

During a commemorative ceremony on 18 June, the French President announced that in 2024, Missak Manouchian will be inducted into the Panthéon along with his wife, Mélinée. He will be buried in the Panthéon alongside his wife Mélinée at a solemn tribute to mark the 80th anniversary of his execution on Mont-Valérien, on 21 February 2024. They will join other great figures of the Resistance, such as Pierre Brossolette, Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz, Germaine Tillion and Jean Zay.

A survivor of the Armenian genocide, Manouchian arrived in France in 1925. He was a poet and Resistance fighter, leading the group known as the Francs-Tireurs et Partisans – Mains d'œuvre immigrée (FTP – MOI) in the Paris region. Arrested on 16 November 1943, he was executed on 21 February 1944 at Mont-Valérien along with 21 members of his group. An inscription will pay tribute to all 23 members of the group executed in 1944 after the "Affiche Rouge" trial, as well as to the military leader of the Paris FTP, Joseph Epstein.



Panthéon, western façade © Jean-Christophe Ballot / Centre des monuments nationaux



CMN and Gastronomy

Le Cordon Bleu Paris shows off its talents at the Hôtel de la Marine

The Centre des monuments nationaux is collaborating with **Le Cordon Bleu**, the famed institute of culinary arts and hospitality management founded in 1895.

Since **late November 2023**, at the Hôtel de la Marine, **chefs from Le Cordon Bleu Paris**, including several that have received **Michelin stars**, have been offering a range of experiences centred on gastronomy for a broad audience, including both individuals and groups.

Participants are able to experience the French style of excellence and the art of living through workshops and demonstrations of wine tasting, cooking and pastry-making, followed by tastings.

For information and reservations for the culinary workshops and demonstrations (excluding special combined deals), visit the website of [Le Cordon Bleu Paris](https://www.le-cordon-bleu.com).



[Hôtel de la Marine](#)



[Press release](#)





At the table of the three musketeers

Château de Vincennes, from 25 April to 9 July 2024

A trusted confidant of the young Louis XIV, and one of the great figures of 17th-century France, d'Artagnan spent many periods at the Château de Vincennes. On the initiative of Pascal Monnet, the monument's administrator, under the curatorship of Jacqueline Queneau, a historian of the arts of the table, and David Brouzet, a professor at the IESA Arts et Culture, accompanied by the historian and costume designer Nathalie Harran, the exhibition "A la table des trois mousquetaires" (At the table of the three musketeers) presents from 25 April to 9 July 2024 in the Sainte-Chapelle of the Château de Vincennes, the century of the musketeers, from the tavern to the Grand Couvert du roi.



CMN and the French Language

Château de Villers-Cotterêts, permanent exhibition of the Cité internationale de la langue française © Benjamin Gavaudo / Centre des monuments nationaux

A song that reflects who we are: global successes of popular French music

The first major temporary exhibition of the Cité Internationale de la Langue Française

For its first temporary exhibition, **A song that reflects who we are: global successes of popular French music**, starting in the month of May, the Cité Internationale de la Langue Française will shine a spotlight on song—or rather, the way in which Francophone popular music has made its way around the world. From *La Vie en rose* by Édith Piaf to *Pookie* by Aya Nakamura, from the song of revolution *La Marseillaise*, appropriated by a thousand rebellions, to the worldwide craze for the zouk music of Kassav', the values, sentiments, seduction and ideals conveyed by songs create a mythology that will be explored for the first time by a French cultural institution.



Cité internationale de la langue française - Château de Villers-Cotterêts



The Summit of the Francophone World

The Summit of the Francophone World will begin on 4 October 2024 at the Cité Internationale de la Langue Française in Villers-Cotterêts, a space entirely dedicated to the French language and Francophone cultures which was inaugurated on 30 October 2023 by French President Emmanuel Macron. The Summit will continue in Paris on 5 October 2024.

The 19th Summit of the Francophone World will be a major event for diplomacy, politics, economics and culture, with the French language tying it all together. It will be one of the biggest international events of 2024 to be held in France, along with the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

France and the OIF share the ambition of fostering a Francophone world that serves its peoples while shedding light on the dynamics and opportunities of that world.

France and the OIF have agreed that creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship across the diverse Francophone world will be positioned at the heart of the event. Indeed, the Francophone world is an outstanding generator of intellectual debate, creation and jobs, and it also produces talent and opportunities we should be proud of. The theme of the Summit invites one and all to “Create, Innovate and Foster an Entrepreneurial Spirit in French.”.

To illustrate this theme, alongside the Summit, France will be holding a Festival of the Francophone World to promote a dynamic *Francophonie* to the people of France and the rest of the Francophone community. The Festival, developed in collaboration with the OIF, its member states and civil society, will help develop the perception of a Francophone world that’s open, lively, multilingual, modern, necessary and attractive. It will underscore the vitality of Francophone culture, academia, science and entrepreneurship and will reach out to all of continental France, the country’s overseas departments and territories, online communities and the entire Francophone world.



[Cité internationale de la langue française - Château de Villers-Cotterêts](https://www.cit-langue.fr/)





2024
CMN All Dressed Up

Sublime stage costumes on show at the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau "Ondines and other tales" (working title)

The Centre des monuments nationaux and the Centre national du costume et de la scène are joining forces to present an exceptional exhibition at the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau in the summer of 2024.

In the Renaissance château, whose facades are reflected in the water mirrors installed in the 19th century, Delphine Pinasa, director of the CNCS, will display around fifteen stage costumes created for mythical figures associated with the theme of water and nature, such as Ondine and Isoline.

These costumes, worn by the great performers of Swan Lake and Zoroaster, will take their place in the flats of the 16th and 17th centuries.

PRESS KIT 2024





Ramparts of the citadel of Carcassonne © P. Cadet / Centre des Monuments Nationaux

2024
CMN and Innovation



Introduction of augmented reality tablets at Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey and the Château de Vincennes

As a new year begins, at the Château de Vincennes, the public will get to discover two new visitor circuits using tablets (equipped with a headset for adults). The tablet will become the primary visitor resource to guide visitors as they explore, providing information on the remarkable elements and enhancing the visit with a well-paced and well-rounded narrative of the different visitor areas, from the esplanade leading to the châtelet and the Sainte-Chapelle, the wall walk, the keep and more. Visitors will be immersed in another era thanks to images and 3D reconstructions accompanied by short explanatory texts.

The first circuit is designed for adults in an individual visit format. Even so, the equipment ensures natural and smooth communication between members of a visitor group.

The second circuit has been designed for families or groups of adults and children and allows adults to accompany young children on their visit and offer help if needed.

In early February 2024, Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey will introduce a new visual and audio tool: a tablet and headset that creates an immersive experience. It is aimed at a broad audience and covers 3 different visitor circuits: A 45-minute tour for those in a hurry, a tour lasting an hour and a half for inquisitive visitors, and a fun tour for children. The latter features three characters: a keeper of the keys who crosses all eras, Pierre the pilgrim child and Brother François the monk, both born in the Middle Ages.

The Incubateur du Patrimoine enters its 6th season

Following in the footsteps of the 2022-2023 season, this year, the CMN will support innovative projects that promote **social inclusion** and **environmental responsibility** in the areas of heritage sites, culture and tourism.

Three project sponsors were selected by a committee chaired by Marie Lavandier, President of the CMN, that also included administrators and officials from the CMN.

Learn more about the three project sponsors, Les Flâneuses, Re'Up and Ygor, [here](#).





Château of Pierrefonds © Christian Gluckman / Centre des monuments nationaux

2024

**Construction and Restoration
Work**

The reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral

Reopening of the towers of Notre Dame Cathedral

Month after month, Notre Dame is being brought back to life! In December 2023, a new rooster with phoenix wings was installed at the top of the spire, marking a key milestone in the reconstruction project.

The cathedral is set to reopen on 8 December 2024. The Centre des monuments nationaux will be reopening the towers of Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris to visitors.



[Towers of Notre-Dame Cathedral](#)



Tour around (almost all) the castle and ramparts of the citadel of Carcassonne!

In summer 2024, the majestic ramparts of the [citadel of Carcassonne](#) opened fully to the public for the first time: come stroll along them and enjoy a unique panorama of the Pyrenees Mountains and Aude River.



[Castle and ramparts of the citadel of Carcassonne](#)





Opening of the Treasury of Chartres Cathedral

In 2024, after a major renovation project, the Centre des Monuments Nationaux, along with the Centre-Val de Loire Regional Office for Cultural Affairs (DRAC), will be opening to the public the Treasury of Chartres Cathedral. Holding a collection of exceptional objects, such as works of goldsmithery and precious textiles, the Treasury will be installed in the Chapel of Saint Piat, which will be fully open to the public for the first time. To protect the treasury and properly showcase it, installations meeting the conservation requirements of the works were created.

With the over seven-year-long project coming to a close, the Chapel of Saint Piat is ready to serve as the home for the Treasury of Chartres Cathedral. With the chapel fully open to the public for the first time, visitors will have the opportunity to explore the space, covering over 250 m² and spanning two floors. The chapel's restoration included the interiors and medieval stained-glass windows of the upper chapel, as well as the creation of four new contemporary stained-glass windows for the chapter house. The restoration project also included the architectural ambition to incorporate contemporary elements into the historic monument. With that aim in mind, South Korean artist Bang Hai Ja was commissioned to create four contemporary stained-glass windows to replace the lattice windows of the chapel's chapter house.

The Treasury of Chartres Cathedral is a collection of extraordinary objects, chief among them the relic of the Veil of Mary. The collection includes pieces of goldsmithery and textiles. Historically, pieces of the Treasury have been moved, stolen, destroyed, seized and even burnt. Today, the Treasury is largely a rebuilt collection made up of a few historic pieces, along with later acquisitions, notably thanks to a number of items commissioned during the era of the Bourbon Restoration. Some of the most notable works in the collection that visitors will have a chance to admire include the Tabernacle of Saint Aignan, the armour of a royal child and the wampum belt, made from beads of shell and glass, given as a gift from the Huron people, a Native American nation, in the 17th century.



[Chartres Cathedral, towers and treasury](#)



Tabernacle of Saint Aignan

Opening of the Treasury of Chartres Cathedral

The Treasury of Chartres Cathedral is a collection of extraordinary objects, chief among them the relic of the Veil of Mary. The collection includes pieces of goldsmithery and textiles. Historically, pieces of the Treasury have been moved, stolen, destroyed, seized and even burnt. Today, the Treasury is largely a rebuilt collection made up of a few historic pieces, along with later acquisitions, notably thanks to a number of items commissioned during the era of the Bourbon Restoration. Some of the most notable works in the collection that visitors will have a chance to admire include the Tabernacle of Saint Aignan, the armour of a royal child and the wampum belt, made from beads of shell and glass, given as a gift from the Huron people, a Native American nation, in the 17th century.

A few key figures

- 250 m² dedicated to the Treasury
- 6 million euros
- 7 years of construction
- The Treasury is reopening 23 years after it was closed



The Château of Pierrefonds gets a makeover

The restoration of the Château of Pierrefonds' Preuses (Valiant Ladies) wing is coming to an end

In 2024, the biggest restoration project carried out at the [Château of Pierrefonds](#) in the past 150 years will be completed.

The façades and roofing of the Preuses wing, the Alexander tower and the Godefroy de Bouillon tower are currently undergoing a major restoration.

The Salle des Preuses (**Hall of the Valiant Ladies**), the castle's masterpiece, has been closed to the public since the work started in 2022. Very soon, you will be able to admire the painted interiors, which have been cleaned and had previous modifications removed, for a final result that's more harmonious and closer to the original appearance.





Rediscover the Bishop's Chamber at the Château of Carrouges

The Bishop's Chamber, one of the main attractions of the [Château of Carrouges](#), in north-west France, reopened in spring 2023 after a major restoration project.

This very extraordinary suite dating back to the 17th century is made up of an antechamber, a *chambre de parade* for receiving guests, an oratory and a gilded study with woodwork and exceptional painted décor.

 [Château of Carrouges](#)



2024

The CMN Family



‘Monument jeu d’enfant’

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October 2024, children aged 5 to 12 can embark on a discovery of France’s most prestigious monuments. Abbeys, châteaux, palaces and archaeological sites will be transformed into a **playground** for one special weekend.

Feudal lords, budding archaeologists, medieval blacksmiths and ancient druids... the history of the monuments is told and explained through a **series of workshops**: treasure hunts, narrated tours, music, dance, fine arts, storytelling as well as cookery and cabinets of curiosities.

‘Contes et histoires’

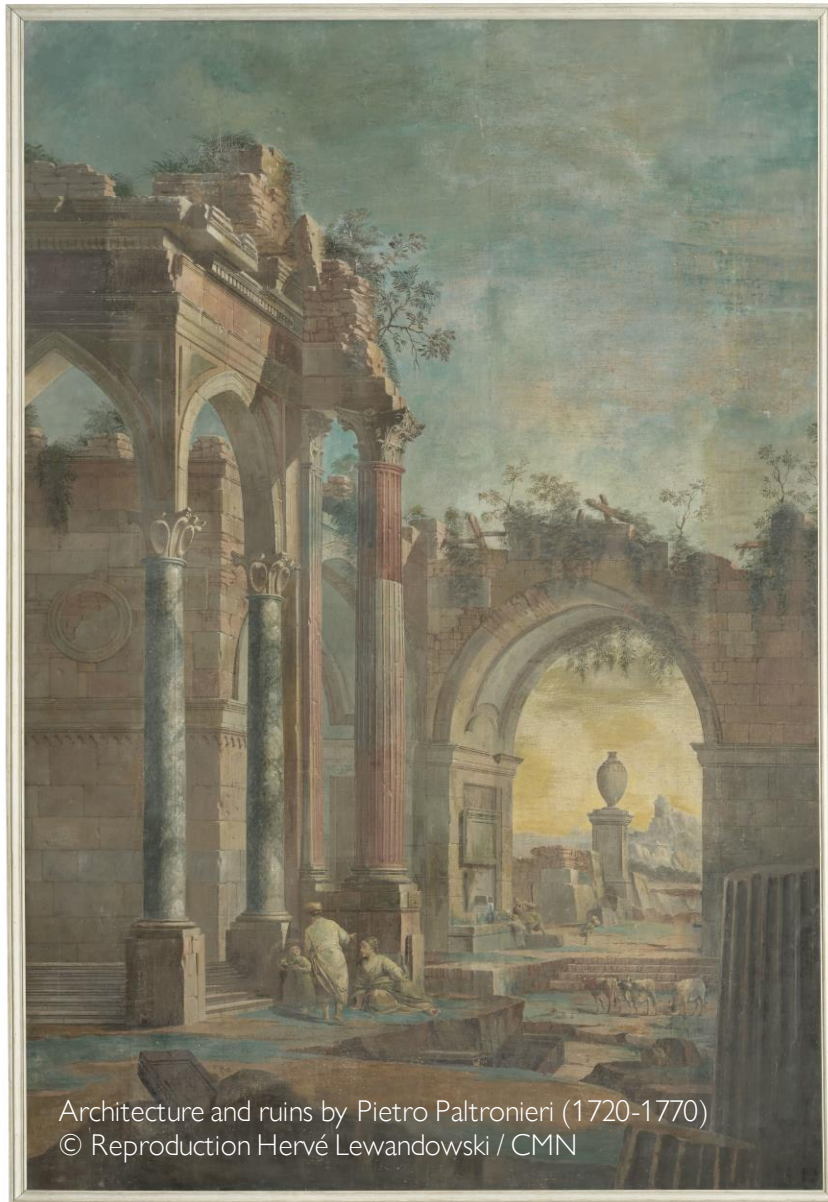
From Saturday 21 December 2024 to Sunday 5 January 2025, spectacular shows, mysterious investigations, fanciful folktales, creative and gourmet workshops all await families at 32 national monuments. These enchanting activities run throughout the **Christmas school holidays**. Performances, storytelling, workshops and family visits will bring the monuments to life and take young and young at heart on a journey back in time!

And thousand and one surprises will encapsulate the magic of Christmas, and adults and children alike can enjoy a **well-earned tasty treat** at the end of the day!



Château of Haroué, Pillement Salon © Colombe Clier / Centre des monuments nationaux

The CMN's Collections



Architecture and ruins by Pietro Paltronieri (1720-1770)
© Reproduction Hervé Lewandowski / CMN

The collections of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux

Dive into the incredible collections of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux

A total of **76 sites** managed by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux are home to collections. And those collections hold **137,000 cultural assets!** Among them, over **12,000 are protected for belonging to historic monuments**, representing everything from the fine arts and contemporary art to the natural sciences and ethnology.

Within the Department of Programming of the Office for the Conservation of Monuments and Collections, the Collections Inventory Team is responsible for establishing the ownership status of cultural assets, studying, inventorying, checking, managing and distributing collections.

Discover the masterpieces of the Italian school scattered across our various châteaux...

Wander around and discover the décor and interiors of our monuments...

You can also discover important historical figures. They made the history of our monuments! Walk in the footsteps of Victor Hugo, Marie-Antoinette, Marie Curie and more.



[Our collections](#)



Resources

At your disposal



Our latest news

Find all of the **latest news** from the CMN.

Temporary exhibitions, new monuments, exceptional cultural events... all of the latest information at your fingertips!

 [All our news](#)

For detailed information on the monuments in the CMN network, download our 2024 sales manual.

 [Sales Manual 2024](#)

Photo library

The CMN's Images Division, the *Pôle Images*, has a diverse collection of over 500,000 photographic documents. Regularly updated, the photo library is of interest to professionals as well as private individuals, art historians, and architects eager to discover a wealth of architectural iconography and images from prehistoric sites to the present. It also offers the chance to see photographs of the collections held by the monuments.

 [Access to the photo library](#)

Topic sheets

Take a fresh look at our monuments with our topic sheets and piece together a central theme for your future article or trip!

- Monuments on the waterside
- Parks and gardens
- City trips
- Family outings
- 1930s villas
- Cycle touring
- Wine tourism
- ... and much more



[All topics](#)



Château of Fougères-sur-Bièvre © Léonard de Serres / Centre des monuments nationaux

More to the CMN

Venue hire

The Centre des monuments nationaux has made its extraordinary locations available for private hire, with a unique range of prestigious heritage venues (châteaux, abbeys, fortresses, gardens, etc.) from which to choose the perfect location for any event, be it a dinner, a cocktail reception, a wedding reception, a performance or concert, a conference or seminar, or a cultural event.

The venues available for hire range in capacity from 50 to 3,000 people, depending on the venue.

A special private hire brochure is available. Don't hesitate to contact us and request a copy: location@monuments-nationaux.fr

This will be sent to you free of charge on request.



[Monument hire](#)

More to the CMN

Brand policy

To boost the visibility and renown of its monuments both nationally and internationally. Through spin-off products in particular, this policy will help promote the network's monuments while protecting their image. The CMN is proud to present its first partnerships with Saint-James, Garnier-Thiebaut, and Marius Fabre.

The *Éditions du Patrimoine*

The *Éditions du Patrimoine* publications report on the latest research findings in movable and immovable heritage, architecture, art history and archaeology. They also disseminate knowledge of heritage to a broad audience. Thanks to some fifteen collections – guides, illustrated books, theoretical texts, scientific publications –, they reach both amateurs and professionals, students and researchers, but also children and specific audiences.

<https://www.editions-du-patrimoine.fr/>



© Benjamin Gavaudo / Centre des monuments nationaux

More to the CMN

Our gift and book shops

Our gift and book shops will take you on a journey into the rich history of our regions through our monuments.

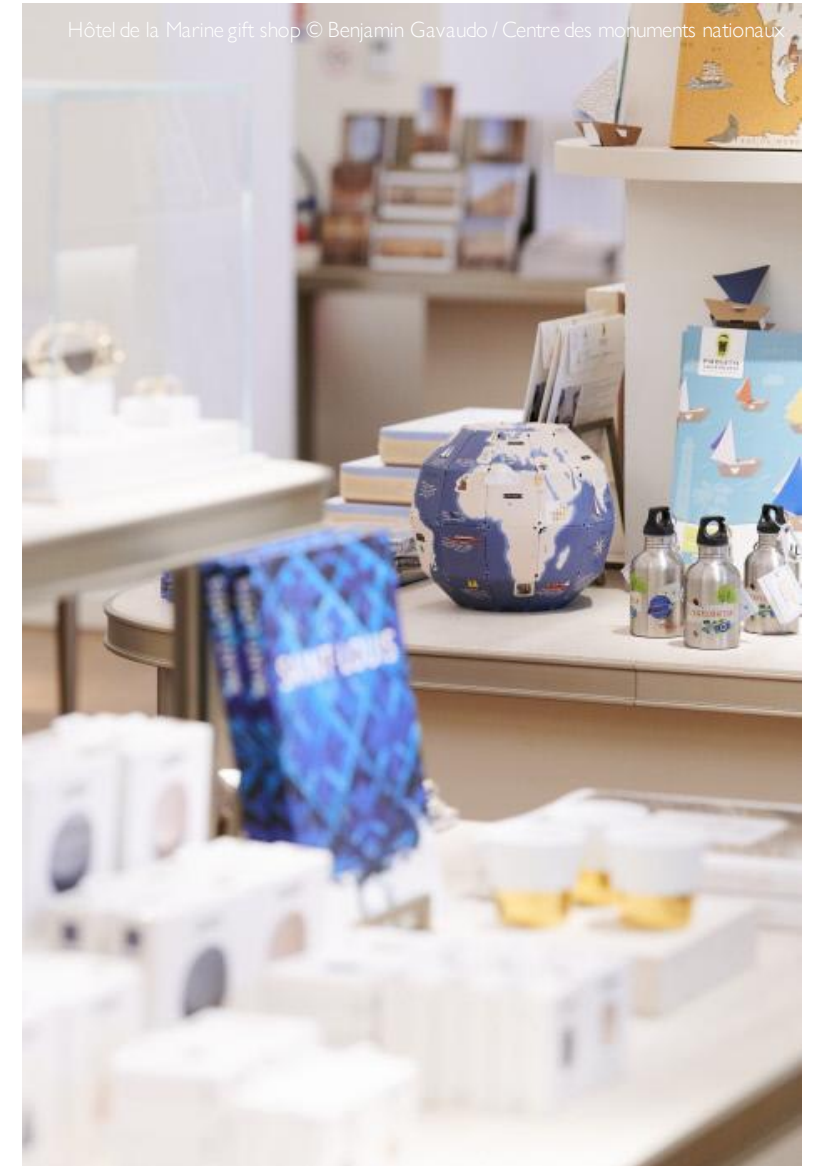
You'll find a wide range of books on offer, including some from [Editions du Patrimoine](#).

You'll also find a large number of original products that can't be found anywhere else, thanks to the CMN's relationships with various partners renowned for their superior expertise and award the *Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant* (Living Heritage Company) label.

Each of our gift and book shops stocks a different range of products to complement your visit to the monument in question.

If you run out of the time on the day, you can also find us at www.boutiquedupatrimoine.fr

Your purchases help to safeguard France's heritage.





CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX



Arc de triomphe de l'Étoile de nuit. © Jean-Pierre Delagarde / Centre des monuments nationaux

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