

--UPDATED MUSEUM OPENING INFORMATION--

MUSÉE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS TO REOPEN AFTER 10 YEARS

RENOWNED PARIS MUSEUM REOPENS SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

Decorative Arts Museum Returns to Original Splendor 100,000 Square Feet of Usable Space

150,000-Object Collection Celebrates Elegance of Design from Middle Ages to Today

PARIS, June 2, 2006 – This September the world's leading decorative arts museum will reopen after being closed to the public for ten years. Following a \$46 million restoration of both its historic building and prestigious collections, **The Musée des Arts Décoratifs** will reopen its doors on September 15, 2006. First opened in 1905, the museum is located in the north-western section of Palais du Louvre, immediately adjacent to the Musée du Louvre. The redesigned galleries have been restored to their original splendor and the collections will be reinstalled to reflect a new approach to their presentation. Works on view include over 5,000 objects from the museum's permanent collections, painstakingly restored over the last five years by 100 different specialists.

The permanent collection of The Musée des Arts Décoratifs includes **150,000 works** of furnishings, porcelain, glass, textiles, wallpaper, toys and jewelry and dates from the Middle Ages to the present. Works from the 1400s to 1940 are predominantly French, offering a celebration of **500 years of French style** and taste. Works dating from 1940 to the present come from a variety of cultures and include objects from the 20th century's leading European designers as well as select pieces by American and Asian designers. In addition to extensive restoration to individual works and renovations to the building, the reopening also marks a **new installation** of the permanent collection. Objects will now be presented chronologically and by artist or workshop, allowing visitors to understand the formal aspects of the decorative arts as well as the historical and cultural contexts in which they were created and used.

Museum History

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs is located in the Marsan Wing of the Palais du Louvre, the complex of buildings that incorporates the Louvre museum and the Tuileries gardens. The museum entrance is on rue du Rivoli, on the right bank of the Seine River. With portions of the building begun as early as 1190, the majority of the structure that houses the Musée des Arts Décoratifs was built by architects Charles **Percier** and Pierre François Léonard **Fontaine** under Napoleon I and completed about 1850. The building was modified by Hector-Martin **Lefuel** under Napoleon III and extended to the *Union Centrale des Arts Decoratifs* (U.C.A.D.) in 1898. The U.C.A.D was created by patrons, collectors and industrialists in the wake of the 19th century universal exhibitions to care for and preserve important objects. The Musée des Arts Décoratifs first opened in 1905 and remained open continuously for over 90 years. Ten years ago, the museum closed to begin a complete building renovation and collection-wide restoration. The Musée des Arts Décoratifs is the only major museum in France that is not operated by the French government.

Les Arts Décoratifs

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs is part of Les Arts Décoratifs, the current name for U.C.A.D. This umbrella organization comprises **four museums, a decorative arts library and two design schools.**

Inside the Palais du Louvre building on the rue de Rivoli:

- Musée des Arts Décoratifs : museum for the decorative arts
- Musée de la Mode et du Textile : museum of fashion and textiles
- Musée de la Publicité : museum of advertising
- Bibliothèque des Arts Décoratifs: the world's largest decorative arts library
- Les Ateliers du Carrousel: a decorative art school that offers classes to the public, and each week serves 1,800 adults and children above the age of four.

Off-site museum and design school:

- Musée Nissim Camondo: a magnificently preserved private home donated to the museum in its entirety in 1935. Lavishly furnished with 18th century art and objects. Located in the 8th arrondissement.
- École Camondo: an advanced training program for design professionals. Offers courses, graduate work and degree programs for 250 students. Graduates include Pierre Paulin, Philippe Starck and Jean-Michel Wilmotte. Located in the 14th arrondissement.

Renovation Budget

The renovation of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs was completed at a total cost of 36 € million (about \$46 million). Of this amount, 4.1 € million was designated for the restorations of individual objects and the period rooms, and the remainder was dedicated to the renovation of the building. The funding was raised from both public and private sources, with 21 € million from the French government, and 15 € million raised from individuals and businesses in France and abroad. Of the funds raised in the private sector, 60% came from donors based outside France.

Measurements & Gallery Sizes

The renovated museum will comprise nearly **100,000 square feet** (9,000 m²) of usable space including 54,000 square feet (5,000 m²) for the permanent collection galleries. Works dating from the 17th century to 1900 will be displayed in 37,000 square feet (3,400 m²) and the works created after 1900 have more than 17,000 square feet (1,600 m²) of additional gallery space. The two new study galleries, toy gallery and Jean Dubuffet gallery together measure 13,000 square feet (1,200 m²). In addition, approximately 12,000 square feet (1,100 m²) has been reserved for temporary exhibitions.

Design Team

A first-rate group of architectural teams undertook the renovation of the museum: Oscar Tusquets and Bruno Moinard in the historic galleries; Sylvain Dubuisson in the contemporary galleries; Bernard Desmoulin in the Galerie Dubuffet, the toy gallery and the study galleries; and Daniel Kahane in the temporary exhibition spaces. France's best-known interior designer, François-Joseph Graf, was responsible for designing the museum's 10 exquisite period rooms.

Renovation Details

After being filled with concrete for over 100 years, the exterior windows of the building have been opened, bathing the exhibition spaces in natural light for the first time, revealing the beauty of the historic architecture both insides and out and celebrating the museum's extraordinary location adjacent to the Louvre and the Tuileries gardens. The architects have also opened up many of the museum's interior spaces to maximize exhibition galleries and allow for a dynamic dialogue among objects in the museum's various collections. This extensive renovation provides the museum with state-of-the-art security, climate control, and adjustable lighting. In addition, the museum will now boast two floors of study galleries, a full floor of new gallery space, as well as five new levels of exhibition space inside the building's cupola

9-Story-High Cupola Provides Panoramic Views

It is within the 17,000-square-foot cupola that objects of modern design dating from the 1940's to the present are on view. The domed elevated structure is located on levels five through nine of the museum, offering visitors 360-degree views of Paris. The Tuileries gardens, Sacré Coeur, the Eiffel Tower and l'Arc du Triomphe are all in sight from the windows of the cupola's tall circular structure. There is an identical structure on the Louvre museum side of the building but it has always been closed to the public.

Collection Highlights

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs houses an exceptional permanent collection of over 150,000 objects in all areas of the decorative arts by some of history's most influential artists, artisans, and workshops. The collection includes predominantly French objects from the Middle Ages to the present as well as a selection of works by various 20th century European, American and Asian designers. Objects on view encompass furniture, cabinetry and precious metalwork as well as ceramics, glass and contemporary designs – from video games to PVC chairs. These prestigious collections document the history of French style and taste from the Gothic to Louis XVI, from Art Nouveau to Modernism and beyond.

Within the collection are fine examples of **Sèvres** porcelain and **Lalique** crystal as well as objects and furniture by many of history's leading designers. Highlights include:

- furniture and clocks by the Baroque master Andre-Charles **Boulle**
- 19th century bed of courtesan Emilie Valtresse de la Bigne, the supposed inspiration for **Emile Zola's** scandalous novel *Nana*
- a set of silver table decorations commissioned by Napoleon III and rescued by **Christofle** from the in 1870 palace fire
- a restored interior by Art Nouveau architect Hector **Guimard**
- furniture by Robert **Mallet-Stevens** (Art Deco)
- 20th century Modernists **Le Corbusier, Jean Prouvé** and **Charlotte Perriand**
- post-war furnishings by **Alberto and Diego Giacometti**
- contemporary designs by **Martin Szekely, Philippe Starck** and **Marc Newson**

10 Period Rooms

A favorite feature of the museum and a particular focus of the renovation are its 10 period rooms, revealing interiors that date from 1480 to 1925. Three of these rooms are completely new, six have been fully restored since the museum closed in 1996 and one room was closed for over 20 years. The period rooms have been recreated under the watchful eye of interior designer François-Joseph Graf and incorporate many of the museum's masterpieces. All of the objects inside the rooms have been restored and in some cases the interiors have been redesigned to reflect new discoveries about the objects. The 10 rooms range in style from Gothic to Art Deco, dating from 1480 to 1925:

- A Gothic bedroom dating from **1480** that was originally part of a medieval manor in Auvergne built under the reign of Charles VIII. The chateau belonged to Rigault d'Oureilhe, steward to kings Louis XI, Charles VII and François I. Contents of the room include a canopy bed, 16th-century wooden side chairs, as well as a bench and dressers.
- The Cabinet doré d'Avignon (c. **1720**) a small gilded room created for the hôtel de Rochevade in Avignon by royal architect Thomas Lainé, including furniture, porcelain, gold and silver.
- A late 18th century room (c. **1790**) from the hôtel de Serres in the Place Vendôme in Paris; also known as the Salon Barriol, after the collector who gave the room to the museum. A fine example of the style of Louis XVI (Louis Seize).
- The Talairac Salon (c. **1795**) from a Paris building in the 9th arrondissement. The paneling provides a rare example of the interior decoration popular in the years following the Revolution, when tastes return to the refinement of the *Ancien Régime*.
- A luxurious bedroom from the Louis-Philippe era (c. **1840**), from the Paris apartment of Baron William Hope. Hope was a wealthy English banker with many residences. This bedroom came from his 19th-century home in the 7th arrondissement. The paneling is almost entirely gilded with decorative scenes painted in a bold, multi-colored palette.
- A dining room designed by Eugene Grasset (c. **1880**) for his friend Charles Gillot, a publisher and art collector, which features a door with stained glass and sculpted ornaments with a mélange of animals, flowers, and figures. Graf's favorite period room.
- The *U.C.A.D.* (Union Centrale des Arts Décoratifs) Pavilion from the landmark International Exposition of **1900**, created by the designer Georges Hoentschel, with original paneling, a table, four chairs and other works especially commissioned for the exhibition. The wall paper and wall hangings have been recreated by hand to provide an identical facsimile of the originals, which were marred by time and the elements.
- A dining room by Louis Süe and André Mare (**1921**) with a gold-leaf ceiling, dark tones and solid forms. The team was known for its "serious, logical, and welcoming" designs.
- The private apartment Albert-Armand Rateau designed for couturier Jeanne Lanvin between **1920 and 1922**, which epitomized the height of Rateau's unique Art Deco style and incorporated images from art history and mythology. Included are the fully restored original interiors of Mme. Lanvin's boudoir, bedroom and bathroom.
- Architect and designer Pierre Chareau's office-library for the French Embassy Pavilion at the International Exposition of **1925**. Characteristics of note include a domed ceiling that opens and closes mechanically with beams made of palm trees, the original arm chair and desk, and carpet designed by Jean Lurçat.

Notable Collections

The extensive holdings of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs have been amassed almost entirely by the donations of individual collectors and include many collections that the donors and their families developed over decades and even centuries. In addition to its impressive holdings of glassware and wall paper, the museum also boasts The **Jean Dubuffet Collection**, given by the artist himself in 1967. This collection comprises 132 works on paper, 21 paintings and 7 sculptures made by Dubuffet between 1943 and 1966. Additional collections of note include:

Toy Collection

Collectors, children and the young at heart will take pleasure in the museum's **12,000 toys** dating from the 19th century to the present. Among the treasures are **1274 dolls** of varying sizes, 275 doll accessories and 44 dollhouses; 1474 carved and stuffed animals; 229 toy soldiers; **189 train sets**; 529 trucks and tractors and **80 video-games**. With its presentation changing twice a year, the toy galleries trace the development of toys by theme, by era and by origin, illustrating the move from the predominance of German toys before the First World War to today, when China is responsible for 90% of the world's toy production.

Jewelry Collection

The museum's exquisite **4,000-piece jewelry collection** includes rare examples of ornamentation dating from ancient China (203 B.C.) and India, masterpieces from Imperial Japan and a ring from 5th-century Italy. The majority of the collection, however, focuses on the history of jewelry from the middle ages to the present, presented chronologically. The 1,200 pieces are on view in newly renovated galleries opened in 2004. In addition to several examples of jewels and jewelry from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the vitrines provide a stunning display of rings, necklaces, bracelets, brooches and hair ornaments from the 18th and 19th century. Designs from the 20th century are grouped by movement.

Art Nouveau is represented by René **Lalique**, Lucien **Gaillard** and the Maison **Verver**. Art Deco examples include pieces by Raymond Templier, Jean Fouquet, **Boucheron** and **Cartier**. Jewelry created after 1940 represent a variety of styles as well as several examples of jewelry by artists, with works designed by **Georges Braque**, **Alexander Calder** and **Henri Laurens**. Highlights from the more recent past include a 1956 necklace made from a rubber car tire by Dutch designer Tea Tolsma, several designs in plastic and a bracelet specially made for the museum by **JAR**, the famous American jeweler Joel Arthur Rosenthal.

Exhibition Schedule

To celebrate the grand reopening and accommodate the large crowds expected, the museum will display highlights from its stunning permanent collection during its début month. Temporary exhibitions will begin shortly thereafter, on October 25, 2006. Also on view at the opening will be the museum's ten period rooms and two study gallery exhibitions. The study galleries comprise two floors of gallery space, presenting 500 objects in their 12 rooms. Reinstalled annually by museum curators, the inaugural study gallery exhibitions will be based on two themes: to rest and to eat. The first exhibition, on the upper floor, includes a selection of chairs and beds from the 18th century to the present. Highlights include the thrones of Napoleon I and his wife Empress Josephine, and a complete Pullman sleeping cabin from a 1920's train. The lower floor of study galleries has been installed to reflect the theme of eating, and includes extraordinary examples of objects used at the table and or in food preparation. Stunning objects on view include Venetian glass table ornaments, silverware, china, teapots and salt cellars.

A full schedule of **temporary exhibitions** begins in October 2006:

October 25, 2006 through January 21, 2007

One for All: A Question of Editions

Danese: Design in Milan 1957-1991

April 27 – August 12, 2007

Joe Colombo: Invention of the Future

October 11, 2007 – January 15, 2008

Pure Decoration: Islamic Art from the Musée des Arts Décoratifs

February – August 2008

The Eagle and the Butterfly: Power and Ornament under Napoleon I (1800-1815)

** Organized by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, this exhibition will be presented at the **Saint Louis Art Museum** (June-September '07) and the **Museum of Fine Arts Boston** (October '07 - January '08) prior to its presentation in Paris.

Library

First opened in 1864 on the Place des Vosges, the Bibliothèque des Arts Décoratifs moved to its current location in November 1904. The world's largest decorative arts library, its collection of printed books and periodicals recounts a complete history of the decorative and graphic arts, architecture, fine arts, design and fashion. The bibliographic database is available at the library and online and now encompasses more than 160,000 entries. Access is free of charge. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm. There are four separate spaces available for research and access to primary source materials.

Museum Boutique & Restaurant

The renovation of the boutique of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs is already complete. The store measures more than **3,000 square feet** and includes a wide selection of books, jewelry, fashion accessories, and stationery. Additional highlights include a large number of children's toys and a full complement of tabletop accessories, from flatware, glassware and table linens to place mats, napkins and salt shakers. Available products are reproductions of works in the museum collection as well as a variety of lines by today's leading designers.

For the first time the museum will also house a restaurant, which serves lunch and dinner daily.

Listing Information

What:	Musée des Arts Décoratifs Grand Reopening
When:	Public Opening: September 15, 2006 Gala Preview: September 12, 2006
Hours:	Tuesday –Friday, 11 am - 6 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am - 6 pm
Where:	107, rue de Rivoli, Paris, 1 st arrondissement
Access:	Metro to Palais-Royal, Pyramides or Tuileries
Admission:	8 € (approximately \$10) - 6, 50 € for students & seniors
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