

LOUVRE

Press release

**Artistic and cultural
education**

October 17, 2015–July 4, 2016

Richelieu wing

Petite
Galerie



Founding Myths. From Hercules to Darth Vader

Inaugural exhibition of the
Petite Galerie



Tanuki, Japon © 2015, musée du quai Branly, photo Claude Germain / Scala, Florence. *Héraklès au repos*, d'après Lysippe © RMN Grand Palais (musée du Louvre) / Hervé Lewandowski. *Dark Vader* © & TM. Lucasfilm Ltd. Used under authorization

What are myths? And how are they portrayed? How are myths passed on to us? How have artists appropriated them? Told, sung, written, and illustrated, myths are a part of all cultures and civilizations, including contemporary popular culture. Presented in the Petite Galerie throughout the school year, the exhibition “Founding Myths. From Hercules to Darth Vader” tells how illustrators, sculptors, painters, puppeteers, filmmakers, and musicians around the world have drawn inspiration from myths, given them form, and brought them to life.

In its desire to make art open to all, the Louvre provides the keys to answer these questions in the Petite Galerie.

From Hercules to Darth Vader

The exhibition displays some 70 artworks, grouped into four sections. The first gallery invites you to discover the tales told by different civilizations in an effort to explain the creation of the world. Then find out how the cycles of nature are recounted in Greek, Egyptian, and Islamic civilizations. Meet mythological heroes such as Gilgamesh, Orpheus, Hercules, and Icarus, and see how they have been portrayed by classical and contemporary artists. In the final gallery, ponder modern-day interpretations of myths and metamorphoses: from Jean Cocteau to *Star Wars*, Japanese manga to *Fantômas*, do the mythologies of popular culture not still draw from the same repertoire of stories and tales?

Innovative approach

The Petite Galerie gives visitors an opportunity to enrich the way they look at the masterpieces at the Louvre and other museums. Through samples of different materials, entertaining wall labels, maps, and timelines, it facilitates the encounter with artworks and offers visitors a new museum experience.

A booklet of games and a free application with audio description and in LSF (French sign language) ensure a comfortable visit for all audiences. Activities led by museum guides are an excellent way for families to enjoy a fun-filled and awe-inspiring discovery of the Petite Galerie.

Curator:

Dominique de Font-Réaulx, Curator at the Louvre and Director of the Musée National Eugène-Delacroix.

Project manager:

Frédérique Leseur, Head of Public Outreach and Artistic Education.

Practical information

Opening hours

Every day from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Tuesday. Night opening until 9:30p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Reservations required for self-guided groups.

Admission

Included with museum ticket: €15.

Free for visitors under the age of 18, 18-25 year-old residents of the European Union, holders of a valid “Pass Education” card, unemployed individuals, visitors receiving benefits, disable people, holders of the Professional and Ami du Louvre cards, and on the first Sunday of each month from October to March.

External Relations Department

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Richelieu wing



Petite
Galerie

The Petite Galerie

A new space for learning and wonderment



Exhibition design project
© 2015 musée du Louvre / Anne Philipponnat

An unprecedented, long-term project dedicated to art education, the Petite Galerie du Louvre will be inaugurated this coming October.

True “education for the eye,” the Petite Galerie will invite young visitors and their accompanying adults (parents, teachers, youth leaders, etc.) to explore a different theme each year through major artworks from prehistory to the present day. By dedicating a specific space to artistic and cultural education at the heart of the museum, Director Jean-Luc Martinez wanted to recall the spirit in which the Louvre was founded, a museum open to all since 1793. Also rolled out online and beyond the museum walls, the Petite Galerie will give visitors the keys to observing and explaining the artworks, thus ensuring their visit to the museum is a real pleasure.

Facts and figures:

The Petite Galerie exhibition:

- 240 m²; 4 galleries
- approximately 70 artworks

The Louvre public:

50% of visitors under 30 (or 4.7 million visitors in 2014)

In 2014, the musée du Louvre received:

- 27,000 school groups (675,000 youth)
- 2,230 disadvantaged or handicapped groups

Throughout each school year, an exhibition held in the Richelieu wing of the Louvre will focus on a chosen theme through a mix of painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking, decorative art and design, as well as music, film, theater, and photography to reflect the diversity of artistic creation.

With an inventive design that plays with light and color, and innovative approach (entertaining wall labels, viewing itineraries, museum guides, etc.), visitors will learn how to study an artwork, compare it with another, and consider the artist’s intentions, as well as develop their general knowledge, their critical mind, and their imagination.

“I wanted to concentrate our efforts on a mission I see as essential: to accommodate museum visitors – all visitors, regardless of their background, the time they have available, or their level of knowledge,” explains Jean-Luc Martinez, Director of the Musée du Louvre. *“It is no longer a matter of increasing the number of visitors, but rather knowing how to accommodate them and helping them gain as much insight as they can during their visit. The Petite Galerie is a project I feel especially strongly about, as it will allow us to give our visitors a Louvre that is more open, more welcoming and more generous.”*

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Dominique de Font-Réaulx, Curator at the Louvre and Director of the Musée National Eugène-Delacroix.

Project manager:

Frédérique Leseur, Head of Public Outreach and Artistic Education.

The Petite Galerie benefits from the patronage of the Total Corporate Foundation



as well as the support of the Foundation PSA Peugeot Citroën.



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Digital partners

The Petite Galerie benefits from the support of Accenture for the development of its website and mobile app.



This innovative educational project was made possible thanks to the participation of Orange.



This project is also supported by the MGEN group and the Fonds handicap & Société (Intégrance).

The Petite Galerie also features:

- a comprehensive digital offering with innovative and interactive resources (website, smartphone application, etc.)
- books for all ages (a picture book for younger visitors, an album with an anthology of writings for older visitors)
- traveling outreach initiatives for all audiences (schools, media libraries, social centers, businesses, hospitals, etc.)
- a program of events in the Louvre Auditorium ranging from readings and films to concerts and more. A new event called “Mercredis de la Petite Galerie,” hosted by Ali Rebihi, journalist and producer at the France Inter public radio station, will present debates one Wednesday per month with participants from a variety of backgrounds.