

A SALUTE TO STYLE

10 OCTOBER 2019 TO 26 JANUARY 2020

The fury of war and military aspirations to beauty are not always easy to reconcile. Nevertheless, military ardour is often linked to the rise to power, with the result that ambitious military leaders need to stand out and develop a taste for prestige. With over two hundred uniforms, weapons and pieces of equipment ranging from the 16th century to the present day, the Musée de l'Armée reveals a selection of extraordinary objects that separate the military from civilians and display the grandeur of their warrior status along with the glory of their triumphs.

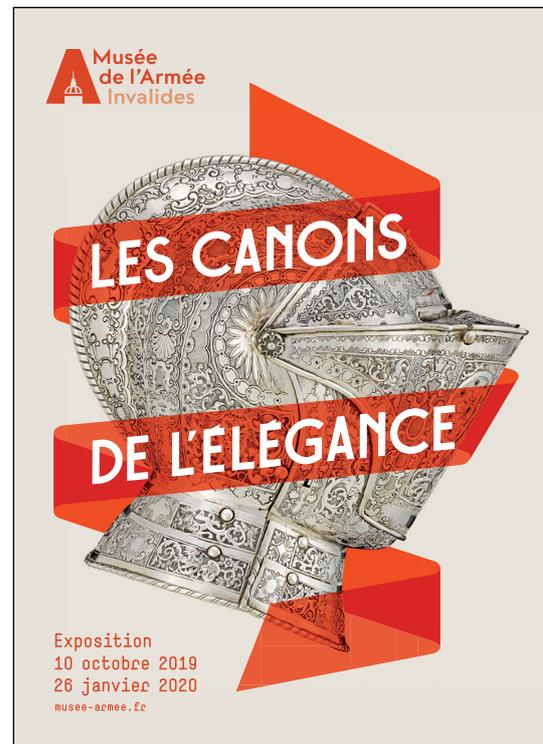
Since war has often been waged by the privileged classes who were determined, above all, to distinguish themselves from civilians and display their triumphs, soldiers have always had a taste for finery and are attached to the beauty, quality and even the splendour of the weapons, equipment and accessories they use in their profession and which also set them apart.

“The better you think you look, the better you fight”*

The attention focused on uniforms, the pride soldiers, officers and high-ranking commanders take in wearing them, a pride that strengthens their readiness to fight, have taken different forms reflecting different eras, soldiers' ranks and the nature of the political regimes arming them. Far from being a whim indulged in by the wealthiest military men, this luxury defines their identity, rank, degree of authority conferred by their status, and relative distance to the supreme power. Objects, insignia and costly features enhance their merit and mark the recognition their exploits have won them.

The new Musée de l'Armée exhibition gives visitors the chance to discover these remarkable objects. Combining different approaches — historical, anthropological and aesthetic — the exhibition highlights the way military pomp contributes to the splendour and legitimisation of political power, rewards merit and meets the desire to stand out from or assimilate into a group.

Visitors will be able to marvel at a display of over 200 armoury and arquebus masterpieces along with magnificent gold and silverwork, embroidery, marquetry and saddlery, mostly from the Musée de l'Armée's collections. They take the form of jewellery, fashion accessories and haute couture garments for the exclusive use of warriors past and present. Prestigious loans from Jean-Paul Gaultier, Arthus Bertrand, Raf Simons and Dries van Noten enrich and reinforce the exhibition's message.



ACCOMPANYING THE EXHIBITION

Fun exhibition visit

Several missions await you! With your family or class, explore the exhibition and look for clues and details without leaving a trace or being discovered...

Suitable for children from 7 upwards (the trained guide adapts to participants' ages)

24 October at 2.30 pm, 26 October at 2.30 pm and 4 pm, 30 October at 2.30 pm and 20 November 2019 at 2.30 pm

The tour lasts 1.30 hour - Bookings: jeunes@musee-armee.fr

Hands-on workshop: Embossed and inlayed metal

After seeing the replica of King Louis XVI's sword or Henri II's armour, young visitors can experiment with different metal-working techniques and take their creations home with them after the workshop.

Suitable for children from 7 upwards

27 October, 6 November, 17 November and 4 December 2019 and 4 January 2020 at 2.30 pm – The tour lasts 2 hours

Bookings: jeunes@musee-armee.fr

Family visit

Eight special panels combined with a games booklet (in French and English) for young visitors and a tactile exploration of the materials used by artisans, like ivory and leather, provide an informative and fun way of finding out all about the exhibition's works. The youngest visitors can enjoy meeting the challenge of finding a specific work in the exhibition rooms, with a gift as a prize.

Special tours

The exhibition curators and museum restorers invite you on a special evening tour of the rooms after the museum is closed to the public: a unique opportunity for you to decipher the works, objects and documents on display, learn about the process used to select them, and explore behind the scenes of the exhibition. Top off this exceptional experience with a glass of champagne.

17 and 24 October, 21 November, 19 December 2019 and 9 January 2020 at 6.30 pm - The tour lasts 1.30 hour

Bookings: musee-armee.fr



Coldstream Guards drummer's red outfit
© Paris, Musée de l'Armée Dist. RMN - Grand Palais / Anne-Sylvaine Marre-Noël

Guided exhibition tour

Guided by a lecturer, discover the extraordinary objects that display the grandeur and glory of military triumphs.

The tour lasts 1.30 hour

Bookings: musee-armee.fr

Help with visits

The digital guide offers additional information for exploring the exhibition, in French and English.

Cycle of concerts - A salute to style and triumphal blasts

While music has always played a part in celebrating a military victory, it also helps to keep up troop morale and comfort the injured with concerts on the backlines. Some musicians have even been personally rewarded for acts of bravery on the battlefield with an honorary trumpet or weapon. In times of peace, the ultimate aristocratic and royal activity of hunting was practiced by ennobled military men on their properties.

And from Josephine's music salon at Malmaison to the seats at the Opera, dashing military men also shone brightly in society, sublimely elegant in their colourful ceremonial uniforms.

The cycle features eight concerts, including music by Mozart, Strauss, Haydn, Schubert and Brahms.

From 22 September 2019 to 27 January 2020

Information, prices and bookings: saisonmusicale.musee-armee.fr – +33 (0)1 44 42 54 66

Conference cycle - *Shock and Chic. Meaning and scope of military pomp*

Why has the state sought to appropriate the military symbolism of weapons, armour and uniforms, for many years and in many different forms? What does the combination of warlike courage and ostentatious luxury mean? How have certain military outfits been subverted from their original purpose and become highly popular in civilian society? Come and listen to the answers by top specialists.

In partnership with the Université Permanente de la Ville de Paris.

From 4 to 21 November 2019

Austerlitz Auditorium at 1.45 pm - The conference lasts 1.15 hour

Booking required, admission free subject to seat availability: histoire@musee-armee.fr

Film cycle – *Dressed up*

Specially programmed for the exhibition, a selection of five fiction films explores the way the splendour of military uniforms on the battlefield and the norms of male beauty it responds to have been depicted on the screen.

From 7 November 2019 to 16 January 2020

Austerlitz Auditorium - Thursday 7 and 14 November, 5 and 12 December 2019 and 16 January 2020 at 7 pm Booking required, admission free subject to seat availability: musee-armee.fr

Online Artips course – *The colours of uniforms*

As part of the exhibition dedicated to the soldier's appearance, the Musée de l'Armée has collaborated with Artips to develop an online course focusing on the colours of uniforms.

Starting 10 October 2019

<http://arti.ps/museearmee>

Nuit Blanche

Free event on 5 October 2019

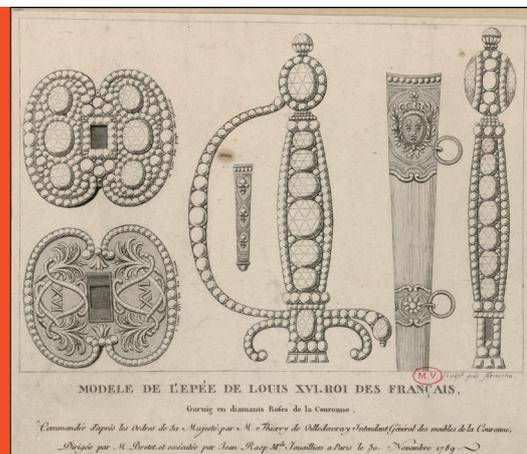
In October, the Musée de l'Armée will be taking part in the Nuit Blanche night-time arts festival for the second time. Organised since 2002 by the City of Paris, this free event is open to all and invites the public to an extraordinary artistic experience in outstanding locations. The Hôtel des Invalides will be specially lit for an exclusive cultural marathon.

To mark the event, the *A Salute to Style* exhibition will be open for a special preview.



DID YOU KNOW?

The sword is a military object as well as part of a costume, and the quality of the sword depends on the owner's financial means. In 1784, Thierry de Ville d'Avray, Quartermaster General of the Garde-Meubles de la Couronne, came up with the idea of using precious stones from the royal collection in order to create a diamond-encrusted sword for the king. It was made by goldsmiths Pierre Alexandre Bretet and Georges Frédéric Bapst. The handguard and sheath were covered in approximately 2,200 gems of varying sizes. The sword was not completed until 1788 and Louis XVI only wore it once, during the opening of the Estates General of 1789. The sword's handguard has been beautifully reconstructed by students at École Boulle.



Model of Louis XVI's sword in pink diamonds, part of the Crown Jewels, kept at Versailles
© Château de Versailles, Dist. RMN - Grand Palais / image
Château de Versailles

Curators – Musée de l'Armée

Dominique Prévôt, head of documentary studies at the modern department
Olivier Renaudeau, chief heritage curator, head of the antiquity department
Ronan Trucas, conservation assistant at the assessors and inventory department
Assisted by **Marion Stevens** and **Antoine Tromski**

Layout design

Agence NC: Nathalie Crinière, Tomoko Nishiki

Graphic Design

C-album: Marine Huard

Lighting design

Serge Derouault

Graphic communication

Wijntje van Rooijen & Pierre Péronnet

EXHIBITION PARTNERS

The exhibition is organized with the support of CIC, a key partner to the Musée de l'Armée. It benefits from the special contribution of the Ministère des Armées.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Full programme and on-line ticket sales: musee-armee.fr

The exhibition is open every day: 10 am - 6 pm until 30th October and until 5 pm from 1st November

Ticket required at entry

Musée de l'Armée

Hôtel national des Invalides
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musee-armee.fr



PRESS CONTACT

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MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE

Founded in 1905, the Musée de l'Armée houses one of the world's most extensive military history collections, with close to 500,000 pieces hailing from the Bronze Age to the 21st century. It offers visitors from all over the world a chance to discover the Hôtel des Invalides and its famous Dome, which houses the tomb of Napoléon I, and to explore the history of France through its collections. Guided tours and workshops, temporary exhibitions, conferences, films, special activities, concerts and other events also take place over the course of the year. It attracts massive visitor numbers, with over 1.2 million visitors in 2018, putting it in the Top 10 of France's most visited museums.