

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux

Actualité des musées FRAME
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**LA PASSION DE LA LIBERTE
DES LUMIERES AU ROMANTISME**

saison culturelle Liberté! Bordeaux 2019



LA PASSION DE LA LIBERTÉ

DES LUMIÈRES AU ROMANTISME

avec la participation exceptionnelle du

musée du Louvre

du 19 juin au 13 octobre 2019
à la Galerie des Beaux-Arts

Exposition du musée des Beaux-Arts
et du musée des Arts décoratifs et du Design



CHATEAU HAUT-BAILLY
MUSÉE D'HOMÈRE





Topic

For its second cultural season, the City of Bordeaux has chosen the universal theme of **liberty**.

What could be more natural in the **land of Montesquieu**, who in the 18th century witnessed the flourishing of a host of academies and Masonic lodges devoted to championing the arts, letters and sciences? The «Port of the Moon» (as the historic center of Bordeaux was also known) enjoyed a real heyday in the Age of Enlightenment – «this brilliant nebula» as George Sand so aptly put it. The Grands Hommes district at the heart of the city still bears the marks of this Enlightenment culture. Both linked to this seminal period in our history (the first for being the heir of the Central Arts Museum created in the wake of the Revolution and the second for occupying a townhouse dating from the end of the Ancien Régime since 1924), **the Museum of Fine Arts and the Decorative Arts and Design Museum have joined forces** – with the exceptional **partnership of the Louvre museum** – to organize an exhibition celebrating a passion for liberty spanning a century, from the Enlightenment to Romanticism. Multidisciplinary in the spirit dear to the encyclopedists, it gathers together almost **300 works and objects of art** dialoguing on themes that are all **semantic variations on liberty**, taken not only in terms of its political and philosophical meaning, but also its economic, sociological, aesthetic and ideological dimensions. In this context, liberty is elevated to a real way of thinking, living, creating and even dreaming. **This exhibition is the first phase of a three-year partnership linking the City of Bordeaux with the prestigious Parisian institution.**

Curators

Sophie Barthélémy conservateur en chef du patrimoine, directrice du musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux

Constance Rubini directrice du musée des Arts décoratifs et du Design de Bordeaux

Caroline Fillon responsable du service des publics, musée des Arts décoratifs et du Design de Bordeaux

Stéphanie Trouvé responsable des collections XVe-XVIIIe siècles au musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux



At the same time as the succession of Revolutions in France, many countries were experiencing conflicts and wars of independence, such as the United States (1775-1783), Holland (1780-1798), Spain (1808-1814) and Greece (1821-1829). Greece's war of emancipation against Ottoman oppression was enthusiastically welcomed by the elites of all backgrounds. After the massacres of Scio and Missolonghi, international emotion is at its height. Conveyed by the press, literature and the arts, compassion for the Greek people reaches every home. It spurs the departure of volunteers ready to fight and die for Greece's liberty.

Eugène Delacroix's *Greece on the ruins of Missolonghi* [\[here right\]](#) symbolizes the fashion for Philhellenism in Europe at the time. Exhibited in Paris in 1826, it is admired for its modernity, which lies in the new use of historical allegory and the expression of a claimed artistic liberty. Narcisse Diaz de la Peña, a painter from Bordeaux, portrays another episode in the war of independence – the resistance of the Souliot women in Epirus, who preferred to sacrifice themselves by throwing themselves off a cliff rather than become slaves. The Romantic poet Lord Byron also supported the Greek cause and was personally involved in the fighting. He died in 1824 in Missolonghi, linking his tragic fate to that of the martyr town besieged by the Ottomans. The Greeks' battle cry against their assailants was «**Liberty or Death!**», which has since become Greece's national motto.

Le « musée en liberté »

coordinated by Isabelle Beccia

During the cultural season *Liberté ! Bordeaux 2019*, the museum of Fine Arts in Bordeaux questioned the topic of “liberty” in an everyday perspective and chose to interact with patients from psychiatric hospitals and prisons.

The project has been **awarded the prestigious label “Le musée sort de ses murs”** launched in 2018 by the French Ministry of Culture: the aim of this award is to promote any kind of action which goes from the museum to the public unfamiliar with it. The project is reflecting the very involvement of the museum for years, and aims to provide patients and prisoners a cultural practice in order to bring them a sense of “liberty” in their everyday life.

