

Musée du Louvre Building and Grounds Renovation Projects 2019-2021

In order to provide optimal visiting conditions and experience, the Musée du Louvre has been carrying out major refurbishments of its museum spaces for the past five years. Also underway are upgrades to meet technical requirements, as well as monument restoration and heritage protection projects that have no direct impact on visitor flows, such as those in the Galerie du Bord de l'Eau and the Cour Lefuel.

1- Projects affecting visitor movement and the exhibition of artworks

Several major projects will begin in 2019. These will affect some of the museum's most-visited spaces, significantly impacting the visitor experience as well as artworks that will no longer be on view.

• **Salle des États or *Mona Lisa* Room** (Denon wing, level 1, room 711): renovations from January 8 to November 2019.

Room open to the public

840 m². Height: floor to skylight: 13 m; surrounding arches: 17 m.

53 paintings removed, to undergo a collection assessment (condition report, frame inspection/upgrading, dusting and photo documentation).

This project will also affect the **Salle Daru** (Denon wing, level 1, room 702), **which is closed to the public from January 8 to November 2019.**

The museum's most-visited room, and home to the *Mona Lisa*, the Salle des États is in need of renovation thirteen years after its complete overhaul (2001-2005). This large-scale operation lasting from January to November 2019 requires the removal of all artworks displayed in the room, except for *The Wedding Feast at Cana*, which will be protected by a wooden case in the area closed off to the public for renovations, and **the *Mona Lisa*, which will remain in its display case and on view for visitors.** Starting in March, a selection of Venetian masterpieces usually on display in this room will be exhibited in one of the rooms in the Passage Mollien (Denon wing, level 1, room 714).

The following works will not be on view:

- *The Wedding Feast at Cana* by Veronese
- *Paradise* by Tintoretto
- *Man with a Glove* by Titian
- *The Pastoral Concert* by Titian
- *The Coronation of Napoleon* by David
- *The Oath of the Horatii* by David
- *La Grande Odalisque* by Ingres
- *The Entombment of Atala* by Girodet

• **The Salon Carré** (Denon wing, level 1, room 708)

On the occasion of the 'Soulages' exhibition (December 11, 2020-March 9, 2020), to be held in this room, the 31 paintings displayed here will be taken down. Half of these will be exhibited in several sections of the Grande Galerie and the Salle des Sept Mètres (Denon wing, level 1, room 709). **The room and its collections will thus be unavailable** from early October until December 10, 2019, inclusive. Following the 'Soulage' exhibition, the Salon Carré will undergo renovations, which are predicted to last from March 10 until the end of May 2020.

- **Salle Rosa** (Denon wing, level 1, room 717).

Room open to the public

During the second half of 2019, this room will be partially sectioned off near the window (approximately one third of the space).

- **Galerie d'Apollon** (Denon wing, level 1, room 705): renovations from March 4 to December 2019.

Room closed to the public

600 m² (L. 61.34 m x W. 9.46 m); floor-to-ceiling height: 15 m.

In order to carry out exhibition space renovations, the Galerie d'Apollon will be closed for approximately 9 months. Following the works, the Crown diamonds and jewels will be displayed at the center of the Galerie d'Apollon, providing a comprehensive overview of the collection held by the Musée du Louvre, and grouping the pieces together on the site of their first exhibition. During the renovations, the Galerie d'Apollon's interior decoration (consisting of stucco and paintings) will undergo conservation treatment for the first time since its 2004 restoration to return it to its original splendor. The room's lighting will also undergo renovation, and various operations are planned to bring technical equipment up to standard.

The following works will not be on view:

- The collection of the Crown diamonds and jewels.

- **Refurbishment of the Etruscan and Italic rooms** (Sully wing, level 1, rooms 660 to 663 and room 650; Denon wing, level 0, rooms 420, 421 and 423): renovations from April 2019 to December 2020.

Rooms located in the Denon wing are closed to the public. Visitors can enter rooms in the Sully wing but works are unavailable for viewing.

1,500 m²; 1,000 works to be redistributed around the museum: Greek and Roman bronzes in the Salle des Colonnes and the Galerie Campana (room 659), 900 Etruscan works to be exhibited in the new rooms (versus 500 currently on display).

The Louvre holds the largest collection of Etruscan and Italic works outside of Italy, but the rooms currently housing these collections on level 0 only allow for a fraction of them to be displayed. Visitors will soon be able to view these collections in an entirely new setting on level 1, in the Salle des Sept-Cheminées (660), the Salle Henri II (662) and the Salle des Bronzes (663), which once housed the French king's apartments. These rooms will undergo major renovation, including the refurbishment of the interior decoration and the reinstatement of historical pathways through the former Royal Apartments.

- **Mastaba Chapel** (Sully wing, level 0, rooms 332 and 333): renovations from November 5, 2018 to July 2020.

Rooms closed to the public

Its exquisite carvings and the great many vibrant scenes depicted in the 4,000-year old Chapel of the mastaba (tomb) of Akhetotep make this exhibit one of the highlights of the Department of Egyptian Antiquities. Arriving at the museum in 1905, its original location and the remarkable architectural complex of which it was part were discovered by the Musée du Louvre a century later, under the sand. These discoveries inspired the museum's decision to display the chapel at the heart of its collections. In the first quarter of 2019, the mastaba will be dismantled stone by stone, each of which will subsequently be examined, cleaned, restored, photographed and digitized. Starting in the second quarter of 2019, substantial construction will be undertaken to create a fire escape in the Pavillon des Arts; the monument will be reassembled in the first quarter of 2020.

2- Projects not affecting visitor movement or the exhibition of artworks

- Le Studio (works begin June 2019, space opens December 2020):

This new learning center of around 1,100 m² will be established in the former Islamic art rooms in the Richelieu wing, near the Petite Galerie and in the immediate vicinity of the museum's exhibition spaces. The aim is to create new areas for pedagogical workshops and courses in the service of an ongoing artistic and cultural education program. The educational workshops will target a wide range of audiences (children, families, underprivileged groups, visitors with disabilities). The learning rooms will be designed with actors from the educational, cultural and social spheres in mind. The space will also feature a break area open to all visitors, providing an introduction to artistic practices and information on the museum's cultural programs.

- Redesigning of the Tuileries Gardens:

The Louvre is undertaking a large-scale redesigning and landscaping project, which, will involve replanting of the Royal Alley and creating new plant beds on the terrace of the Orangerie in 2020.

- Restoration of the Arc du Carrousel:

Built between 1806 and 1808 on the order of Napoleon I to pay tribute to the Grande Armée ('Great Army'), the Arc du Carrousel is made of different materials (stone, white, pink and red marble, bronze, gold-plated lead), which have deteriorated over time and due to weather. The rehabilitation work will restore ornamental and figurative sculptures and reproduce severely weather-eroded pieces; treat corrosion phenomena impacting some of the reinforcing bars; as well as clean and homogenize decorations. Work will begin in 2020.