

MUSÉE
UNTER
LINDEN



Exhibition
170 years
Celebrating
with you!

14.10.23 —
04.03.24



Press release

170 years – Celebrating with you!

To mark its 170th anniversary, Colmar's Musée Unterlinden is organising celebrations for its visitors based around an anniversary exhibition running from 14 October 2023 to 4 March 2024. The visitors of the museum will be invited to travel through time and history in the heart of the museum, as they explore the permanent collections, view previously unseen works taken from the reserves or loaned by partner museums and engage with innovative interpretation tools and numerous forums for expression.

What was the museum like in the past, what has it become and what will its future be? An entertaining exhibition will introduce visitors to eleven leading lights who have shaped the museum's history since its creation in 1853. Emblematic works will chart its 170 years of existence, illustrating the essential role played by the museum and the Société Schongauer in the conservation and promotion of our artistic, historic and archaeological heritage. Celebrations promoting convivial interaction will allow visitors to play an active role in building the museum of the future. The 21st century museum is no longer a silent sanctuary where time stands still, but instead a place of life, dialogue and sharing to be celebrated.

Curator of the exhibition: Chloé Héninger, adjunct curator and head of the archaeological collections
Exhibition assistant: Léa Rosenfeld

The museum's leading lights at the heart of the exhibition

Who were the men and women who shaped the museum's history and who are its modern-day visitors?

In 2003, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Musée Unterlinden, a temporary exhibition and a publication charted the history of the museum and its collections from 1853 to the First World War.

Twenty years on, after a refurbishment and major extension, at a time when cultural institutions are asking themselves about the position and role of the "museum of the 21st century", the Musée Unterlinden is beginning a new process of introspection. Whilst the collections remain at the heart of its mission, the approach to them, the way they are perceived and their interpretation form the guiding thread running through this exhibition.

Discovering a museum's collections also entails getting to know the men and women who assembled, conserved, studied, promoted, reinterpreted and admired them. Members of the Société Schongauer, collectors, artists, visitors, curators, art historians, teachers, students, patrons, partners... The anniversary exhibition brings together everyone involved in building the museum.



The Colmar Museum, lithograph published in L'illustration
14 January 1860, after Charles Goutzwiller, Colmar,
Municipal Library, GA 6

The exhibition

Eleven major figures

Permanent collections

Temporary exhibition hall / Ackerhof Level 2

The museum is celebrating eleven major figures who shaped its history. Artworks and objects from the collections, loans, portraits by artists and writers, archive photographs and interpretation tools will illustrate the role of these women and men in the museum's history.

With the help of *Inventive*, a company specialising in digital tools for architecture and heritage, the museum is reinventing its approach for visitors who come to admire the highlights of the collections. They will be offered innovative interactive tools using images, video, sound and virtual reality to support understanding of the works.

Architectural space

Temporary exhibition hall / Ackerhof Level 2

Visitors will be taken on a journey through time, thanks to a digital display in the form of a 3D model and a photographic gallery exploring “the museum in images”, charting the development of the museum's architecture and its contribution to the urban fabric.

Gallery of time

Temporary exhibition hall / Ackerhof Level 2

In a gallery charting the museum's key milestones, major developments, exhibitions, acquisitions and restorations, the public will (re)discover the rich diversity of the Musée Unterlinden's collections, spanning art, history and archaeology. An interdisciplinary approach to the collections focusing on changes over time will lead to previously unseen juxtapositions, such as Lucas Cranach's *Melancholy* alongside an ancient Greek black-figure vase, a cask from an Alsatian wine producers' cellar or Agnès Thurnauer's *Life-Size Portrait of Martine Schongauer*.

Participatory interpretation space “The museum in the eyes of...”

Temporary exhibition hall / Ackerhof Level 2

“The museum in the eyes of...” its visitors, its teams, artists, pupils, students and partners, stakeholders in the celebration of its 170th anniversary. The space is designed as a place of experimentation and expression, with workshops and exhibition spaces examining today's museum and the museum of the future, a place for sharing ideas and experiences.

Programme and cultural activities

The objective of the museum's visitor outreach and curatorial teams is to deliver a celebratory season of cultural events focusing on creative activity, interdisciplinarity and sharing.

Developed in conjunction with the museum's long-standing cultural, educational and community association partners, but also open to new connections, the season sets out to bring the people of Colmar together around “their” museum, by creating a programme of multidisciplinary and intergenerational activities both off-site and in the heart of the museum:

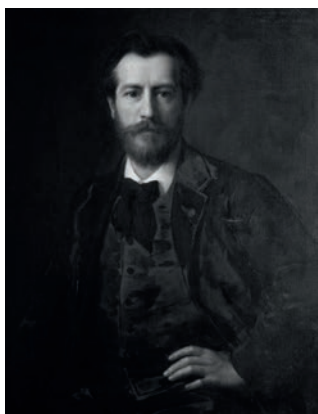
- **Inaugural weekend of celebrations**
Concerts, performances, dance, theatre...
- **Private view for children**
- **A closing ball**
- **Artists and writers in residence at the Musée Unterlinden**
- **Launch of a “Young Members” scheme**
- **Experimental educational projects**
In partnership with primary, secondary and further education establishments.
- **Guided visits and workshops for young people**

Eleven leading lights in the spotlight

Each of the eleven major figures will have their own dedicated space, with content exploring their stories, their eras and their links to the museum and its collections.

The first six will be presented in the museum's permanent exhibition spaces:

Auguste Bartholdi, Théophile Klem, Madeleine Jehl, Edmond Fleischhauer, Jean-Paul Person and Jean-François Jaeger. As visitors explore the cloister, the chapel, the convent's former cellar now housing the archaeological collections, the underground gallery and the space devoted to modern art in the Ackerhof building, they will be introduced to the people who shaped the museum's history and rediscover emblematic artworks associated with them.



Auguste Bartholdi
(1834 – 1904)

The internationally renowned Colmar artist who created the monument in memory of Martin Schongauer.



Théophile Klem
(1849 – 1923)

The talented Alsatian sculptor and master of sacred art who put forward a hypothetical reinstatement of the missing uppermost section of the Isenheim Altarpiece.



Madeleine Jehl
(1897 – 1971)

A pioneer of 20th-century Alsatian archaeology who undertook a major inventory-building project for the museum.



Edmond Fleischhauer
(1812 – 1896)

An exceptional president of the Société Schongauer who instigated a major refurbishment of the museum.



Jean-Paul Person
(1927 – 2008)

The journalist and collector was a major donor to the museum, bequeathing his collection of modern paintings, sculptures and drawings.



Jean-François Jaeger
(1923 – 2021)

A dealer in avant-garde art who was instrumental in the museum opening up to modern and contemporary art.

The visit then continues on level 2 of the Ackerhof, in the temporary exhibition space, with the presentation of five more major figures: Louis Hugot, Ignace Chauffour, Florine Langweil, Jean-Jacques Waltz and Charles Bonnet.



Louis Hugot
(1805 – 1864)

The librarian-archivist who founded the Société Schongauer and worked towards the transformation of the Dominican convent into a museum in 1853.



Ignace Chauffour
(1808 – 1879)

A lawyer and scholar and great supporter of the city and the arts, who became a founding member then vice-president of the Société Schongauer.



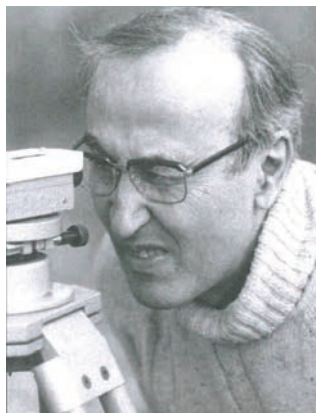
Florine Langweil
(1861 – 1958)

A dealer and expert in Asian art in Paris who donated part of her personal collection to the museum.



Jean-Jacques Waltz
(1873 – 1951)

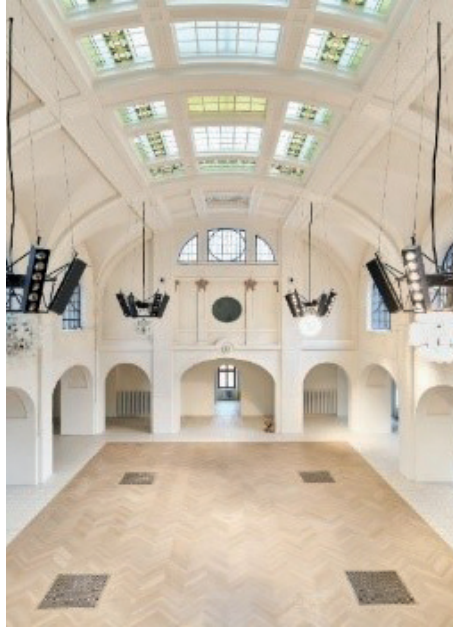
The curator and artist was a champion of Alsace's heritage and pursued a significant acquisitions policy focusing on folk arts and traditions.



Charles Bonnet
(1916 – 2014)

A self-taught archaeologist and teacher who undertook numerous archaeological digs in the Colmar region.

The Musée Unterlinden



Views of the Musée Unterlinden © Peter Mikolas

The Musée Unterlinden officially opened on 3 April 1853. As well as the 3rd-century mosaic discovered in Bergheim in 1848 and the plaster casts of ancient sculptures, the erudite local audience was able to admire artworks such as the Isenheim Altarpiece and Martin Schongauer's Altarpiece of the Dominicans that had been confiscated during the French Revolution.

Nowadays, the Musée Unterlinden is a place of discovery offering its numerous visitors dialogue and knowledge, pleasure and emotions. They can explore a permanent collection covering nearly 7,000 years of history, from Prehistoric times to 20th-century art. In parallel to this journey through time within its collections covering the fine arts, history and society, visitors can also discover the multiple facets of the museum's architecture, which were unified and enhanced by the refurbishment and extension project undertaken by the architects Herzog & de Meuron, completed in late 2015.

Exploring the rooms of the 13th-century former convent, the old Municipal Baths inaugurated in 1906 and the contemporary spaces built in 2015 alongside the collections, visitors can admire the successive stages of over 150 years of the museum's history. The walls and the artworks bear witness to the dynamic work of the Société Schongauer, the charitable association that has run the Musée Unterlinden since 1853.

Practical information and press contacts

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*170 years –
Celebrating with you!*
Anniversary – exhibition at the Musée Unterlinden

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Opening hours

Open daily except Tuesdays, 9am-6pm
Closed on the 01.01, 01.05, 01.11, 25.12

Entry prices:

Full price: 13 €
Concessions: 11 €
Young people (12 to 18-year-olds and students under 30): 8 €
Families: 35 €
Free entry: under 12s

From 13.10.2023

« Young Members » card

Card for 25 € / year for people under 30 years old
Entry valid for the card holder and one accompanying person
Duo offer at 40 € / year
Entry valid for both cardholders and one accompanying person each

Captions and credits

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Photos: Christian Kempf / Le Réverbère, Mulhouse / RMN- Grand Palais, Colmar
Graphic design: © 2023 Labo Typo

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After Charles Goutzwiller, *The Colmar Museum*, lithograph published in L'illustration 14 January 1860, Colmar, Municipal Library

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Jean Brenner, *Portrait of Auguste Bartholdi*, oil on canvas, 1886, Musée Bartholdi Colmar – Photo © C. Kempf
Portrait of Théophile Klem, photograph published in the Bulletin of the Société Schongauer 1911-23, p. 12, © Musée Unterlinden, Colmar

Photograph of Madeleine Jehl, private archive collection © Musée Unterlinden, Colmar

Bonnevay (Alsace, 19th century), *Portrait of Edmond Fleischhauer*, 1896, oil on canvas, acquired 1896, © Musée Unterlinden, Colmar

Jean-Paul Person, © Photo Yves Galerne

Portrait of Jean-François Jaeger, 2011 © David Bordes, Courtesy Galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Paris-Lisbon

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Charles Winter, *Portrait of Louis Hugot*, c. 1861, photograph, Colmar, Musée Bartholdi, © Photo C. Kempf

Portrait of Ignace Chauffour, © photograph: Antoine Meyer, 1883, Colmar, Bibliothèque nationale de France

André Noufflard (Florence, 1885 - Paris, 1968), *Portrait of Madame Langweil*, 1932, oil on card, gift from the artist 1935, inv. 88.RP.383, © Musée Unterlinden, Colmar, Photo Ch. Kempf

Anonymous, *Photograph of Jean-Jacques Waltz (aka Hansi) in the Garden of the Musée Unterlinden's Cloister*, 1936, © Musée Hansi

Photograph of Charles Bonnet published in Horbourg-Wihr, à la lumière de l'archéologie, Mélanges offerts à Charles Bonnet, ARCHIHW, 1995

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Views of the Musée Unterlinden © Musée Unterlinden, Colmar – Photo Peter Mikolas

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