



Alessandro Allori, *Portrait of a young man* (detail), oil on copper, 0,48 x 0,34 cm, Laon, Musée d'art et d'archéologie © C2RMF/Thomas Clot

# ITALIAN HOURS

Italian art from  
Primitivism to Rococo

Amiens, Beauvais,  
Chantilly, Compiègne

And 14 satellite exhibitions in museums  
throughout the Hauts-de-France Region

From March to December 2017

*Italian Hours* offers visitors an exceptional opportunity to explore the public collections of Italian art housed in the museums and churches of Picardy. The exhibition takes its title from a travel book written by author, Henry James (1843-1916), in which he enthusiastically describes Italian monuments and art.

The exhibition takes place in four different locations – Amiens, Chantilly, Beauvais and Compiègne – and presents the main centres of artistic creation, from Turin to Naples, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two hundred and thirty one paintings, on loan from thirteen museums and eleven churches, provide the public with an overview of the scope and quality of Picardie's collections. The four exhibitions are organized in a chronological fashion, allowing the public to travel back in both space and time.

## A discovery of Italian art in four key periods

### **Amiens, Musée de Picardie**

*Primitive art (14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century)*

10 March - 2 July 2017

22 works of art ranging from devotional paintings and original or recomposed polyptychs to fragments of predellas and ceilings beautifully evoke the essence of Italian art from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Visitors can learn about the history of the artworks on display, including the disassembly of the polyptychs and the creation of composite works for the art market in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Chantilly, Musée Condé (Domaine de Chantilly)**

*The Renaissance (16<sup>th</sup> century)*

24 March - 2 July 2017

30 paintings from museums and churches in Picardy may be admired alongside the amazing Italian collection of the Duc d'Aumale in a special Renaissance exhibition at the Château. The new graphic arts rooms present an exhibition of rare 16<sup>th</sup>-century drawings from the Musée Condé Collection, featuring the work of great artists like Bellini, Fra Bartolomeo, Michelangelo, Parmigianino, etc.

## Beauvais, MUDO-Musée de l'Oise and Le Quadrilatère

*Naturalism and Baroque art (17<sup>th</sup> century)*

27 April - 17 September 2017

This exhibition, featuring over 80 paintings, is constructed around some of the major artistic movements of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and illustrates different pictorial themes: the Caravaggio School, the devotional art of the Counter Reformation, the representation of the human figure and his passions, as well as the emergence of new genres like landscape painting and still life. Le Quadrilatère, an experimental gallery space renowned for its dynamic contemporary art programme, is one of the venues for the exhibition in Beauvais.

## Compiègne, Musée national du Palais

*Painting 18<sup>e</sup> century*

9 March - 21 August 2017

An ensemble of almost 70 paintings bear witness to the artistic penchant for Venice and Naples, as may be seen in some of the large-scale decorative artwork (ceilings and lintels) and history paintings (depicting religious and secular scenes), dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This exhibition also explores the various studios and schools, and the ornate craftsmanship of Rococo art. Portraits of aristocrats enjoying the Grand Tour are associated with scenes from popular life and still lifes in a decidedly decorative vein. Landscape painting offers a number of possibilities ranging from Venetian vedute to romantic scenes of Neapolitan shipwrecks, as well as the Roman taste for the antique and the Arcadian countryside.

## The Hauts-de-France Region honours Italian art

Following the merging of the Picardy and Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regions to create a single region – Les Hauts-de-France – in 2016, *Italian Hours* has taken on a new scope. Fourteen satellite exhibitions accompany the four main exhibitions, thus highlighting the diversity and complementarity of the region's collections.

- Abbeville, Musée Boucher-de-Perthes, *Rêver l'Italie, voyager par l'image* (15 March - 25 June 2017)
- Amiens, Bibliothèque Louis Aragon, *Dessins, estampes et enluminures italiennes de la Bibliothèque et du musée de Picardie* (4 October - 6 January 2017) ; Musée de Picardie, «J'ai vu Venise avec des transports d'amour : regards d'Albert Maignan sur l'Italie» (11 March - 2 July 2017)
- Cambrai, Musée des Beaux-Arts, *Guy de Lussigny (1929-2001): San Gimignano ou la parenthèse italienne, 1957 - 1958* (24 May - 3 September 2017)
- Chaalis, Abbaye Royale, *De Paris à Chaalis, les tableaux de Nélie Jacquemart*, (9 March - 17 September 2017)
- Chantilly, musée Condé (Domaine de Chantilly), Cabinet d'arts graphiques, *Bellini, Michelangelo, Parmigianino - L'épanouissement du dessin à la Renaissance* (24 March - 20 August 2017)
- Compiègne, Musée Antoine Vivenel, *Dans les petits papiers d'un collectionneur: dessins italiens du musée Antoine Vivenel, XVI<sup>e</sup>-XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles* (1 April - 2 July 2017)
- Dunkerque, Frac Nord - Pas de Calais, *Focus: Design Radical* (23 September 2017 - 31 December 2017)
- La Fère, Musée Jeanne d'Aboville, *Secondes italiennes. La peinture italienne au musée Jeanne d'Aboville* (29 April - 24 September 2017)
- Laon, Musée d'Art et d'Archéologie, *D'après les grands maîtres italiens : gravures, dessins et tableaux autour de Duflos* (28 March - 27 August 2017)
- Senlis, Musée d'Art et d'Archéologie, *L'art du multiple: gravures d'interprétation d'après les maîtres italiens* (5 April - 2 July 2017); *L'art du multiple: copier Caravage, Marie-Madeleine en extase* (9 September 2017 - 14 January 2018)
- Soissons, Abbaye Saint-Léger, *La Grande Bouffe* (October 2017 - January 2018)

The Glass Pavilion exhibition space at the Musée du Louvre-Lens aims to showcase the artistic vitality of the region, by presenting exhibitions exclusively made up of artworks taken from regional collections. In addition, in order to celebrate the creation of the Hauts-de-France Region, the Louvre-Lens has become a partner in the *Italian Hours* event by offering another perspective on the Italian collections from the Picardy and Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regions. Their exhibition, *Peintures italiennes de Hauts-de-France (XVI<sup>e</sup>-XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles), dialogues et correspondances* can be seen at the Louvre-Lens from 18 October 2017.

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