

NAPOLEON'S PARIS

THE DREAM OF A CAPITAL

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION PRODUCED BY THE MUSÉE CARNAVALET - HISTOIRE DE PARIS, PARIS MUSÉES, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY.

"Napoleon in the uniform of a Colonel of the Mounted Chasseurs of the Imperial Guard", Robert Lefèvre, Oil on canvas, 226 x 157 cm, P 1068, © Musée Carnavalet/Roger-Viollet

“ONE OF MY DREAMS WAS TO MAKE PARIS THE TRUE CAPITAL OF EUROPE. SOMETIMES I WANTED IT TO BECOME A CITY OF TWO, THREE, OR EVEN FOUR MILLION RESIDENTS, SOMETHING SPECTACULAR, COLOSSAL, SOMETHING THE WORLD HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE, WITH AMENITIES PERFECTLY SUITED TO THE POPULATION.”

- Napoleon, as quoted in The Memorial of Saint-Helena by Emmanuel de Las Cases

This unique exhibition brings to light the complex relationship Napoleon Bonaparte maintained with the French capital. Indeed, Paris - which received both his intense scrutiny and his favor - is where the Emperor most clearly revealed his fraught dual identity as an heir to the Enlightenment and the face of a new kind of absolutism.

The Canadian Museum of History is pleased to organize the North American Tour of *Napoleon's Paris - The Dream of a Capital*, made possible by the Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris.



"The visit of Napoleon to the Wine and Brandy Market", Étienne Bouhot, 1811, Oil on canvas, 42 x 65 cm © Musée Carnavalet/Roger-Viollet

Châtelet square and the fountain, Étienne Bouhot, 1810, Oil on canvas, 81 x 99 cm, P 1286 © Musée Carnavalet/Roger-Viollet

A NORTH AMERICAN JOURNEY

Napoleon's Paris - The Dream of a Capital brings together more than 300 artifacts in majority from the Musée Carnavalet and other Paris Musées' institutions in France. It highlights Napoleon's career, the capital's major political and administrative players, and the everyday life of Parisians through a combination of official imagery and caricatures.

The Canadian Museum of History's participation brings a North American perspective on Napoleon and the impacts of his reign on western civilization.

This exhibition also features a unique series of paintings representing Parisian monuments and cityscapes by the great specialists of the period, including Boilly, Bouhot, Baron Gros, and Hubert Robert.

Personal objects and pieces of furniture - in particular, Napoleon's field toiletry kit, by Biennais, and the furniture of Gaudin - provide an exclusive look at the luxury enjoyed by the Emperor's inner circle and place the amazing savoir-faire of Parisian artisans in the limelight.

Through this exceptional and unique opportunity, discover not only how Napoleon saw Paris, but also how the Parisians saw Napoleon.



Napoleon's Paris - The Dream of a Capital is currently under development and the Canadian Museum of History is seeking museum interest in order to orchestrate a tour across North America.



*"Madelonnetes" jail in Fontaines' street, Louis-Léopold Boilly, 1810, Oil on canvas, 76 x 106 cm, P 1310
© Musée Carnavalet/Roger-Viollet*

LOGISTICS

The Canadian Museum of History will send the artifacts to the borrowing venue fully packed, and will make the transportation arrangements for the incoming and outgoing shipment.

Exhibition text, graphics, audiovisual material, interactive device and accompanying illustrations will be provided in English and French in electronic format.

SIZE

Requires approximately 5,000 to 7,000 square feet (500 to 700 m²)

ACCOMPANYING MATERIAL

- A comprehensive communications and media package will be available in English and French in electronic format.
- A souvenir catalogue in English and in French will be produced by the CMH and will be available for purchase.
- Suggestions of activities and educational programs will be available upon request.

AVAILABILITY

2017 to Spring 2019. The exhibition will be available for periods of 12 weeks.



CANADIAN
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY

MUSÉE
CANADIEN
DE L'HISTOIRE

CONTACT

Rosalie Côté

Advisor, Products and Sales

Business Partnership and Information Management

rosalie.cote@historymuseum.ca

Tel.: 1-819-776-8522 | Toll-free: 1-844-776-8522

100 Laurier Street, Gatineau, QC K1A 0M8 CANADA

historymuseum.ca/travelling

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION PARTNERSHIP

This exceptional exhibition was developed by the Musée Carnavalet in Paris, France. The Canadian Museum of History adapted the content for its North American presentation and is responsible for coordinating the Tour.

The world premiere of *Napoleon's Paris - The Dream of a Capital* is presented in its integrity at the Musée Carnavalet from April 8 to August 30, 2015. The North American adaptation will be presented at the Canadian Museum of History from June 2016 to January 2017.

*View of Paris from a bull's eye of the Louvre colonnade, Victor Jean Nicolle, 1810, Aquarelle, 50.8 x 39.3 cm, D 5977
© Musée Carnavalet/Roger-Viollet*



PARIS
MU
SÉES

LES MUSÉES
DE LA VILLE
DE PARIS

PARIS MUSÉES

Since January 2013, Paris Musées has incorporated in the same public institution the 14 City of Paris' Museums, including the Musée Carnavalet. This reform has as primary objective to promote and enhance the City of Paris Museums' network.

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Canadian Museum of History is Canada's national Museum of human history, and the most popular and most visited Museum in Canada. It collects, studies, preserves and presents material objects that illuminate the human history of Canada and the cultural diversity of its people. It is home to major collections of social, historical and Aboriginal artifacts. Through its travelling exhibitions and innovative outreach activities, the Museum strives to make its collection accessible to Canadians and to the world.

MUSÉE CARNAVALET - HISTOIRE DE PARIS

The Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris holds collections that illustrate the city's evolution from prehistoric times to present day. The museum's comprehensive collection of works of art and cultural objects set amid period decor evokes every day and intellectual life in the capital through the ages.

Spread throughout more than a hundred rooms, the Musée Carnavalet houses extensive collections, ranging from archeological treasures to views of Paris at different moments in history, models of historical monuments, period signs, decorative objects salvaged from past buildings, anecdotal historical scenes, portraits of illustrious Parisians, souvenirs from the lives of famous men, accounts of everyday life, and a unique assemblage of pieces from the revolutionary period.



Musée Carnavalet
Histoire de Paris

From 2017 to 2019, while the Musée Carnavalet is temporarily closed for renovations, Napoleon and Paris' 300 artifacts are - exceptionally - available for loan.