



Petite  
Galerie



Press Release

Art and Cultural Education

September 26, 2018–July 1, 2019

The Petite Galerie

## Archaeology Goes Graphic

The Louvre's Petite Galerie—a space set aside for art and cultural education—is launching a new exhibition on September 26, 2018. The event is intended to spark a dialogue between archaeology and this season's "guest"—comic book art. About a hundred artworks and a selection of original pages by comic book artists with an interest in archaeology (such as Jul, Enki Bilal, and Nicolas de Crécy) will invite visitors to follow in the footsteps of amateur and professional archaeologists with a passion for antiquity: to see how they discover "treasures," unearth objects buried at different periods, classify them, and try to understand what they tell us about the past.

In four theme-based rooms, the exhibition will show how comic book art (known as the "ninth art" in France), with its blend of fact and fiction, has drawn inspiration from the archaeological finds that have contributed to the Louvre's collections:

- **"Artists and Archaeologists"**: archaeology did not become a profession until the 19th century, when scientific archaeologists began to use drawings, surveys, and publications. Both archaeologists and comic book artists use sketchbooks to record the objects, places, and characters that interest them—but comic book heroes tend to be reporters, detectives, or adventurers rather than scientists!

- **"Archaeological Treasures"**: the history of archaeology is dotted with amazing and unexpected discoveries. But the word "treasure" has a particular meaning for archaeologists: it can refer to pieces of precious metalwork that were buried to save them from natural disasters or war; it can also mean a group of objects dedicated to a divinity and buried under the foundations of a temple, in the ancient Near East and pharaonic Egypt for example. Many comic books feature these moments of discovery—unexpected or otherwise—with heroes in search of treasure or lost civilizations.

- **"Classifying and Understanding"**: using methods of description and comparison derived from natural science, archaeologists identify, classify, and suggest typologies of material according to technique, shape, or decoration. To date an artifact, they study the conditions of its discovery (burial depth, traces of destruction, etc.) and try to relate these to known events. Some comic book artists use the thoughts of their heroes to evoke different periods of the past; others compose their own typologies of objects.

- **"Interpreting and Imagining"** and **"Comic Book Creativity"**: after excavations, archaeologists study and publish their finds. They gather all the material data available and try to interpret it.



The Louvre's Petite Galerie is generously supported by the PSA Foundation and Kinoshita Group. It is sponsored by the ENGIE Foundation and the Handicap & Société fund created by the Intégrance health insurance company. It also benefits from the generosity of Mrs. Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and the Campbell-Pretty family.

KINOSHITA GROUP



### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Opening hours:** every day (except Tuesdays) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Night opening until 9:45 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Admission:** €15 (permanent collections + exhibitions)

Free admission for visitors under 18 and 18-25 year-old residents of the European Economic Area

**Online ticket sales:** [www.ticketlouvre.fr](http://www.ticketlouvre.fr)

**Further information:** [www.louvre.fr/en](http://www.louvre.fr/en)

**#PetiteGalerie #ArcheoEnBulles**

Musée du Louvre

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When there is no information about the context in which an archaeological artifact was found, it is difficult to interpret it. Comic book art has drawn inspiration from historical figures and legendary heroes, archaeological sites and imaginary places. Historical accuracy is sometimes respected, but fact usually gives way to fiction or even science fiction.

Educational wall labels, video displays, a digital flip-book, and a media library draw attention to details and provide key contextual elements.

**Exhibition curators:** Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the Musée du Louvre, and Fabrice Douar, Editorial Manager at the Interpretation and Cultural Programming Department.

**Project Manager:** Florence Dinet, Musée du Louvre.

## DIGITAL TOOLS

A dedicated website: <http://petitegalerie.louvre.fr>

The **Petite Galerie App** (French only), designed for visitors with disabilities, can be downloaded free on iOS and Android.

## PUBLICATION

*L'archéologie en bulles*, under the direction of Fabrice Douar and Jean-Luc Martinez, assisted by Florence Dinet.

Co-published by: Musée du Louvre Éditions / Éditions du Seuil. French.

## TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

**Family tours** (ages 8 and up, French only) every Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Full program on [louvre.fr/ateliers](http://louvre.fr/ateliers)

**Comic book workshop** (ages 8–12 and 12+, French only)

October 24, 25, and 26, 2018.

## AT THE LOUVRE AUDITORIUM

### CINEMA

*Series of films (French only) on “Adventure and Archaeology”*

October 10, 2018, January 13, and March 13, 2019, at 8 p.m.

Screening for younger audiences on Thursday February 28, at 3 p.m.

### LECTURES (FRENCH)

**Presentation of the exhibition**

October 3, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.

By Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the Musée du Louvre

**“Culture G” evening events**

November 21, 2018, January 13, and April 3, 2019, at 7 p.m.

Three discussion sessions on the theme of archaeology and comic book art for anyone interested in improving their general knowledge. With Ali Rebeihi, journalist and producer at France Inter (French radio station).

**Dimitri Meeks meets Enki Bilal**

October 11, 2018 at 7 p.m.

After a lecture by Dimitri Meeks, the Egyptologist and the comic book artist Enki Bilal will discuss their views of Egypt.

## A season devoted to archaeology

### Paris Plages

July 7–September 2, 2018

Bassin de la Villette (19th arrondissement)

This summer, as part of the “Paris Plages” event in collaboration with the City of Paris, the Louvre will invite families to discover a preview of the museum’s forthcoming exhibition, “Archaeology Goes Graphic,” with a selection of artwork reproductions. Free activities will provide an introduction to archaeological excavation, and a reading area will focus on comic books.

In partnership with the INRAP (French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research).

### A Dream of Italy: The Marquis Campana’s Collection

November 7, 2018–January 15, 2019

Hall Napoléon

This is the first exhibition in 160 years to present an overview of the 19th century’s largest private collection. The Marquis Campana’s collection featured over 10,000 pieces (archaeological objects, paintings, sculptures, and modern *objets d’art*) including many masterpieces such as the “Sarcophagus of the Spouses” and Paolo Uccello’s painting *The Battle of San Romano*.

### Forgotten Kingdoms: Heirs of the Hittite Empire

April 17–July 29, 2019

Hall Napoléon

The Hittite empire ruled over Anatolia and held sway over the Levant until about 1200 BC. Its demise gave rise to new kingdoms in Anatolia and Syria, heirs of the political, cultural, and artistic traditions of the fallen empire. The museums of Berlin’s Museum Island have teamed up with the Louvre to present the masterpieces of their collections. A wide variety of archaeological finds and excavation documents invite visitors on a journey to discover the mythic sites of this forgotten civilization.

## LOUVRE AUDITORIUM

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

#### Information:

+33 (0)1 40 20 55 55,

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

[www.louvre.fr](http://www.louvre.fr)

#### Tickets:

In person: Auditorium ticket desk

Telephone: +33 (0)1 40 20 55 00

Online: [www.fnac.com](http://www.fnac.com)

#### Admission: €4 to €8

On sale from Wednesday August 30.

Free for students in art history or architecture and Ami du Louvre Youth card holders.