

YVES SAINT LAURENT AUX MUSÉES

JANUARY 29 TO MAY 15, 2022*

CENTRE POMPIDOU
MUSÉE D'ART MODERNE DE PARIS
MUSÉE DU LOUVRE
MUSÉE D'ORSAY
MUSÉE NATIONAL PICASSO-PARIS
MUSÉE YVES SAINT LAURENT PARIS

Taking an innovative approach to mark an important date, the exhibition *YVES SAINT LAURENT AUX MUSÉES* will convene six Parisian museums: the *Centre Pompidou*, the *Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris*, the *Musée du Louvre*, the *Musée d'Orsay*, the *Musée National Picasso-Paris* and the *Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris*, and delve into the profound inspirational bond the couturier had with art in general, and the collections of French public museums in particular.



YVES SAINT LAURENT AUX MUSÉES celebrates the 60th anniversary of the first Yves Saint Laurent runway show. On January 29, 1962, the 26-year-old designer presented his inaugural collection under his own name. From that day on, Saint Laurent seized upon a vision and a style that became his staple throughout his career and until 2002, forty years in which he broke down barriers and introduced bold new forms.

The garments designed by Yves Saint Laurent speak to an entire culture; they embody a far-reaching artistic universe. His endless fascination with the visual arts, both contemporary and historical, deeply informed and energized his work. This new expansive exhibition seeks to retrace the myriad of cultures and artistic movements Saint Laurent drew inspiration from.

Conceived and made possible by the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent, *YVES SAINT LAURENT AUX MUSÉES* will foster a dialogue between a selection of garments, including some of the couturier's most iconic designs, and the permanent collections of six prominent Parisian museums. The exhibition celebrates both Saint Laurent's mastery and art in general. The tentacular scale of the project makes it possible to link the world of Yves Saint Laurent with other artistic realms.

At the *Centre Pompidou* – France's National Museum of Modern Art, we will see Yves Saint Laurent as an artist rooted in his time and deeply in tune with the most noteworthy artistic movements of the 20th century. Picasso, the unequivocal leading figure of the century, holds a special place in the couturier's work, as it is also apparent in the *vis à vis* on view at the *Musée National Picasso-Paris*. Drawing uncanny correlations in between artistic disciplines and schools of thought, Yves Saint Laurent savvily alternated rhythms and colours, lights and textures, as seen in the associations featured at the *Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris*.

At the *Musée du Louvre*, visitors will discover the couturier's fascination with light and his passion for gold, the color of the sun, present in sumptuous decadence in the decorative arts of the Galerie d'Apollon. This aesthetic investigation cannot be fully understood without acknowledging the role played by Marcel Proust in the great couturier's imagination. Saint Laurent's Proustian passion, as well as the way in which he challenged gender codes by mixing women's and men's apparel, will be explored at the *Musée d'Orsay*.

Important archive materials from the fashion house, carefully preserved over the years by Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent, will be presented at the *Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris*, as an extension of the masterpieces exhibited in the permanent galleries of the project's partner museums in Paris.

Largely unknown, these archive materials will help understand how couture garments come to be. They will illustrate the daily work developed within the couture house, provide insight into Saint Laurent's creative process and pay tribute to his numerous invaluable collaborators.

This archive and the exhibitions at the partner museums will enable us to retrace the unique creative journey of Yves Saint Laurent. Conceived as a sort of archipelago, the exhibition will offer new forms of dialogue and encourage visitors to create their own itineraries from one museum to another, leading them into less familiar or new aesthetic terrain. *YVES SAINT LAURENT AUX MUSÉES* seeks to go beyond the traditional framework of an exhibition and how it is experienced, by opening the exhibition to elements that would otherwise go unnoticed, by playing on multiple affinities, unsuspected connections. The exhibition offers, as a result, a new perspective on the work of Yves Saint Laurent.

THE FONDATION PIERRE BERGÉ – YVES SAINT LAURENT

Taking after the haute couture house, the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent was established in 2002 and is led today by Madison Cox. Its primary mission is to preserve and promote the work of Yves Saint Laurent.

From Haute Couture House to Foundation

In 1974, the Yves Saint Laurent haute couture house, based at 30 bis rue Spontini since it was established in 1961, relocated to a Second Empire-built hôtel particulier at 5 avenue Marceau. Yves Saint Laurent worked within its walls for nearly thirty years.

At a press conference on January 7, 2002, Saint Laurent announced his decision to retire and close his haute couture house. Two years later, following extensive renovation of the building, the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent opened its doors.

The non-profit organization has three main goals:

- The preservation of haute couture and ready-to-wear clothing and accessories, sketches for the collections, relevant documents, and various drawings and objects related to Saint Laurent's body of work;
- The organization of exhibitions devoted to fashion, painting, photography, the decorative arts, contemporary art, and Saint Laurent's work, both in its own exhibition spaces and at other institutions in France and abroad;
- The support of cultural institutions and projects.

The Work of Yves Saint Laurent

In 2017, with the opening of the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris, the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent started a new chapter by doubling the space visited by the public and focusing its program of exhibitions solely on Saint Laurent's body of work.

"I have always said that memories should be transformed into projects, and that is what we have done with this Foundation. 2017 marks a new chapter with the opening of two Yves Saint Laurent museums in Paris and Marrakech. Thus continues the journey we began so long ago, when we didn't know what fate had in store for us." — Pierre Bergé

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The exhibition *YVES SAINT LAURENT AUX MUSÉES* has been conceived and made possible by the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent and involves six partnering institutions:

Centre Pompidou
Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
Musée du Louvre
Musée d'Orsay
Musée National Picasso-Paris
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris

Dates: January 29 – May 15, 2022*

The exhibition is curated by:

Madison Cox,
President of the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent
Stephan Janson
Mouna Mekouar

Exhibition Catalogue:

Gallimard and Thames & Hudson will co-publish a new survey publication that will document the project comprehensively. It will focus both on the exhibition as experienced in the five partner museums as well as the archive materials that will be exhibited at the maison de couture's former head office.

Press Contact:

CLAUDINE COLIN COMMUNICATION

Alexis Gregorat
+33 (0)1 42 72 60 01 / alexis@claudinecolin.com

*At the Musée National Picasso-Paris, the exhibition will close on April 15.