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What to See at the Last Ever Biennale Des Antiquaires

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SLIDESHOW: On 10–18 September, the Biennale des Antiquaires will transform the Grand Palais into a priceless collection of art and antiques.

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*If you're going to the Biennale
des Antiquaires at The Grand
Palais in Paris next week,
here's what you must not miss.*



Since the 1960s, every even-numbered year, the iconic glass dome of the Grand Palais in Paris plays host to the Biennale des

Antiquaires. It's one of the most glamorous and chic of all art fairs, known for its attention to detail, luxurious lounge space and airy design. However, numbers of exhibitors have dwindled from 150 in 2012 to 125 this year – and change is afoot.

The coming Biennale des Antiquaires will be the 28th and the last to be held as an every-other-year event. From 2017, the fair will be held yearly, although its new name is still to be announced.

“An annual Biennale, whether it's an oxymoron or not, is nevertheless a necessary step forward that was voted in by a large majority when it was proposed to our members by the president and the council of the Syndicat National des Antiquaires,” said Dominique Chevalier, president of the Syndicat National des Antiquaires (SNA), in a statement.

“As with many other iconic Parisian events, the Biennale has to adapt to a new and much more competitive world, and better take to heart those changes that are necessary to put it back in its proper place,” adds Jean-Daniel Compain, general director of the Biennale des Antiquaires. “With that in mind, we have to balance bringing it into the 21st century with maintaining what's always set it apart from other events of its kind,” he says, pointing to the fair's spectacular scenography, rigorous selection process and strong cultural dimension.

This year, also for the first time, the selection of the exhibitors has been made by an international committee of 15 members, including members of the board of the SNA, curators, art historians and collectors. The committee is chaired by Henri Loyrette.

Notable highlights of the 2016 Biennale des Antiquaires will include:

1. Masterpieces from the State Hermitage Museum of Saint Petersburg, Russia, as part of an exhibition highlighting French *art de vivre* of the 18th century.

2. Wonders from the collection of Le Mobilier National with the exhibition ‘Tradition & Daring!’, which will feature 23 works that marked the history of design during the second half of the 20th century. Includes Edward Albert and Noah Duchaufour-Lawrance.

3. An immersion into the history and expertise of fine watchmaking with nearly 100 historical pieces, the ‘Conquest of Time’ exhibition, presented by the Fondation de la Haute Horlogerie, will also have expert artisans who will be on hand to explain their craft to the public.

4. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, Templon Gallery will offer a booth comprised entirely of works dated from 1966: a subjective, playful, and “autobiographic” panorama of the Parisian cultural landscape as Daniel Templon discovered it in that year.

5. Landau Fine Art (Montreal, Canada) will offer key masterpieces from artists including Jean Dubuffet, Wassily Kandinsky, Amedeo

Modigliani, Henry Moore, Pablo Picasso, and Kees van Dongen.

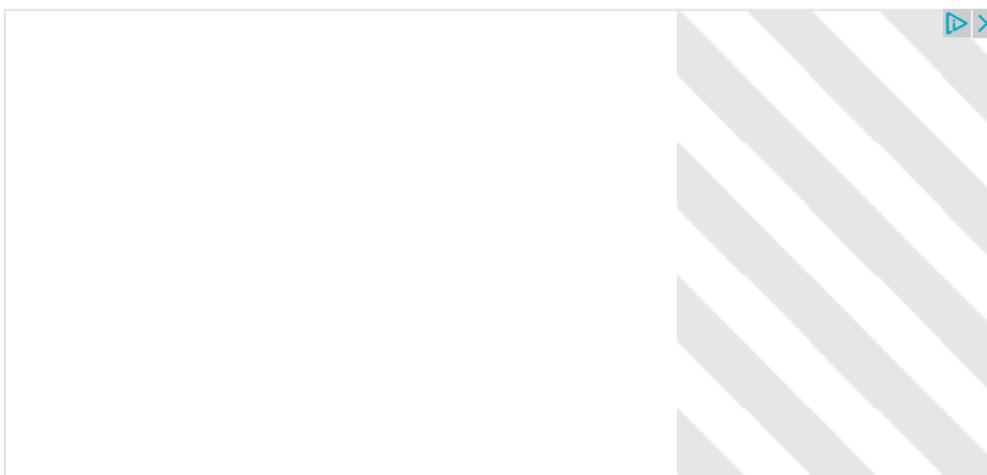
6. Époque Fine Jewels (Kortrijk, Belgium) will present exceptional pieces – masterpieces of haute joaillerie from the Art Nouveau period – from the collaboration between Georges Fouquet and Alphonse Mucha, who spearheaded the movement.

7. Mayoral Galeria d'Art (Barcelona, Spain) will offer an exhibition dedicated to Joan Miró, curated by Joan Miró Punyet, the artist's grandson.

8. De Grisogono (Geneva, Switzerland) will present a selection of haute joaillerie, including a white gold ring set with one round of diamonds (10.15 carats), 84 emeralds (1.20 carats), and 387 white diamonds (8.97 carats).

9. *À la campagne* (oil on canvas, 1883) by Carl Larsson (1853–1919) will be presented by Amells, Stockholm (Stockholm, Sweden). The history of this major work will come full circle: the painting's whereabouts was lost after its sale at the Paris Salon in 1883; 133 years later, it will be exhibited to the public at the fair.

10. Look out for Nathalie Crinière's monumental scenography. Contemporary design talents will also realise key exhibitor booths this year, including Grimanese Amorós, who will create Cindy Chao's booth (haute joaillerie; Hong Kong, China); and Mathieu Lehanneur for Chenel Gallery (Paris, France).



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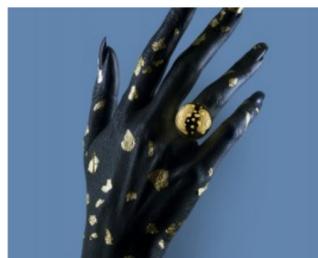
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