



**THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE
JOINS THE GAMES!**

At the heart of the Paris 2024 Games, the Invalides is celebrating sporting excellence: the Esplanade just in front of the Musée de l'Armée is hosting the archery and para archery events, the finish of the legendary marathon and the start of the cycling time trials. The fencing events will take place at the Grand Palais nearby, whilst the Olympic Flame will pass through the Hôtel National des Invalides on August 28.

In tune with the unique atmosphere of the 2024 Paris Games, the Musée de l'Armée – which is open throughout the summer – is offering a rich and eclectic cultural programme based around the history of high-performance sport and the arts.

Three exhibitions with the label Olympiade Culturelle are on offer to visitors; numerous complementary activities and events make up an outstanding package worthy of this great international event.



These projects have been labeled by Paris 2024
as part of the Olympiade Culturelle



GAITÉS OLYMPIQUES

142 rue de Courcelles
en face le Vélodrome de la Seine
LEVALLOIS

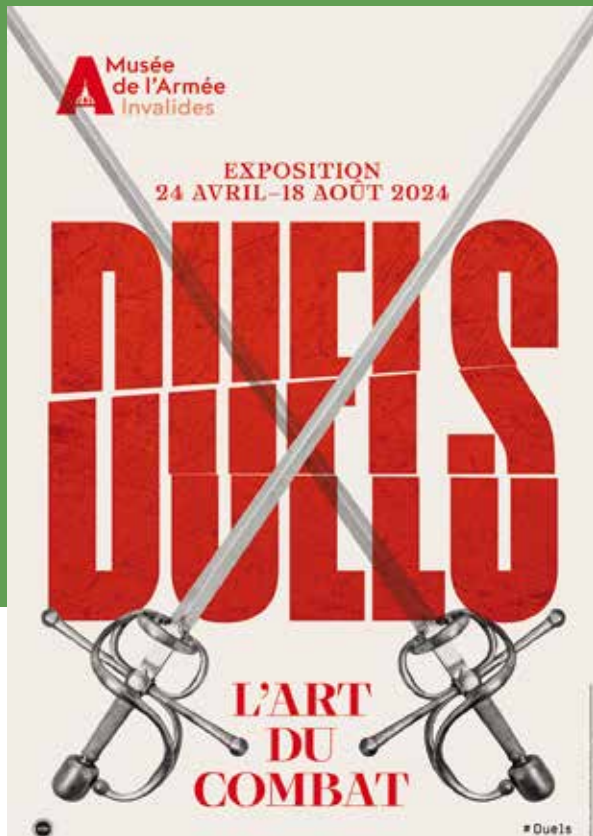
SPORTS
RÉUNIS

CONCERT · PROMENADE



E. Malfroyt.

IMP. D'ART - E. MALFROYT - 10^{me} - rue des Saules - PARIS



DUELS. THE ART OF FIGHTING

Exhibition from April 24 to August 18, 2024

Through the *Duels. The Art of Fighting* exhibition, the Musée de l'Armée returns to the duel's historical sources to explore its main principles and developments, including the fantasies of our collective imagination.

David against Goliath, Athos against d'Artagnan, Chirac against Mitterrand, Federer against Nadal or even Harry Potter against Voldemort... from ancient Egyptian times to the present day, from East to West, men have fought in duels both throughout History as in fiction: so, to resolve a dispute, seek redress or simply for the sake of their honour, two adversaries met in single combat, staged according to very precise rules. The duel is a form of scheduled, ritualised, even choreographed and legitimised violence: it complies with a protocol that, depending upon the era and the country, has been more or less authorised.

Practiced, tolerated or condemned, but always appreciated, the duel is a genuine social phenomenon that has transcending borders and ages. Ferocious,

flamboyant, serious or spectacular, this mode of confrontation is ever present, in various forms, in the world of politics, sport, art and video games.

Staged to coincide with the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, notably whilst the fencing events are taking place at the Grand Palais, the exhibition traces the origins of this Olympic discipline: although duellists no longer fight each other to the death, they observe rules based on various forms of duels that the Musée de l'Armée is keen to analyse. Swords, rapiers, pistols, sabres, navaja blades, daggers and even tennis racquets are on display, in a theatrical setting that plunges visitors into the world of the duel.

The duel's greatest historical figures are portrayed throughout the itinerary: Mademoiselle de Maupin piercing the Duke de Luynes's shoulder with her sword before taking him as a lover; the Samourais Musashi and Kojiro fighting on the island of Ganryu; the knight Jean de Carrouges confronting Jacques le Gris in 1386, in what was the last judicial duel; and also the Baron de Jarnac and François de Vivonne, Lord of La Châtaigneraie, fighting a duel in front of King Henry II and the court at Saint-Germain-en-Laye castle in 1547.

The protagonists of colourful stories that illustrate how, over the centuries, reality and fiction (novels, films, etc.) have influenced each other and helped to root the "spectacle" of the duel within popular culture and the collective imagination.

Exhibition produced with special participation from:

{ BnF | Bibliothèque nationale de France

Curator: Musée de l'Armée - Invalides

Hélène Boudou-Reuzé, Prints Collections Manager, Fine Arts and Heritage Department

Julia Bovet, Museum Projects Manager, Exhibitions and Museography Department

Dominique Prévôt, Bladed Weapons Collections Manager, Ancien Régime Department

Vincent Mouraret, Curatorial Assistant, Ancien Régime Department

SPORT AND CULTURE AT THE 1968 GAMES: THE WORKS OF JEAN DEWASNE

Exhibition from July 14 to October 20, 2024, Historial Charles de Gaulle

Following France's failure at the 1960 Games in Rome, General de Gaulle launched a major reform to revitalise French sport. The Grenoble Games in 1968 were also the subject of an ambitious cultural policy symbolised by the commission to decorate the Ice Stadium that was created by the artist Jean Dewasne.

In 1960, General de Gaulle launched an ambitious sports policy which he entrusted to prominent military figures and sports personalities such as Maurice Herzog (1919–2012), the conqueror of Annapurna, a senior secretary then Secretary of State. This veritable French athletic transformation culminated in the triumph of French athletes in the 10th Grenoble Winter Olympic Games, held from February 6 to 18, 1968.

Hosted in France for the second time after Chamonix in 1924, the Winter Games were a challenge for the city of Grenoble, which undertook major works to equip itself with the necessary infrastructure. Intended as a showcase for modern France, they were also



the subject of an ambitious architectural and cultural policy entrusted to major contemporary artists.

This applied to the commissioning of Jean Dewasne (1921–1999), a leading exponent and theoretician of geometric abstraction, to decorate the entrance to the Ice Stadium which was built specially for the Games.

Referring to this cultural ambition, an essential element of the State's commitment to promote contemporary creative art, the journalist Jean Lacouture, *Le Monde's* special envoy, stated "the legacy of these Grenoble Games may be the harmonious conjunction of sport and the arts".

Curator: Musée de l'Armée – Invalides

Vincent Giraudier, Head of the Historial Charles de Gaulle Department

Laëtitia Desserrières, Drawings Collections Manager, Fine Arts and Heritage Department





SOLDIERS AND SPORTSMEN: A GREAT MATCH!

Exhibition from July 14, 2024 to May 31, 2025,
Valenciennes Corridor

The exhibition relates the role and evolution of the famous “Joinville Battalion”, the epitome of military sporting excellence, and its impact on French sporting performance. From the creation in 1852 of the Joinville National Military School of Gymnastics, which marked the beginning of institutionalised physical training for French soldiers, to today’s high-performance military sportsmen.

The Musée de l’Armée uses both its own collections and loans from various champions to analyse the strong ties linking the military institution and the field of sports, each one drawing upon the other to better elevate itself.

Although creating hardened fighters has always been a preoccupation for military leaders, this was institutionalised in 1852 with the establishment of the Joinville National Military School of Gymnastics which was responsible for creating the famous “Joinville Battalion” and the present-day Centre National des Sports de la Défense (National Defence Sports Centre, CNSD).

Making sports part of the Forces’ activities meets three objectives: soldiers’ physical training, wounded

soldiers’ reconstruction through reintegration, and the Nation’s renown through high-performance sport.

Sport not only provides physical exercise; it also helps prepare soldiers for carrying out their missions. This includes both sports with “obvious” connections to military practice (fencing, shooting, horse-riding, etc.) and also mobility-enhancing (running, skiing, mountaineering, etc.) and team-building (group sports) disciplines.

Sport is also a key element in wounded soldiers’ physical and mental reconstruction and reintegration. In their pursuit of these two missions, the Centre National des Sports de la Défense (National Defence Sports Centre) and the Institution Nationale des Invalides’ sports center thus liaise with military casualty support cells.

Ultimately, military sporting excellence has led to the creation of French military teams that represent the institution in international competitions. The Ministry of the Armed Forces also plays a major role in supporting high-performance sport



within France, thereby helping to boost France’s renown within this field. Numerous sportsmen thus benefit from military contracts that allow them to be paid whilst.

Curator: Musée de l’Armée – Invalides

Vincent Giraudier, Head of the Historical Charles de Gaulle Department

Christophe Pommier, deputy Head of the Artillery Department

PROGRAMME

Tours led by one of the *Duels. The Art of Fighting* exhibition's curators

On June 7 and July 5 – 7pm

Duration 1 ½ hours

A unique opportunity to go behind the scenes with one of the *Duels. The Art of Fighting* exhibition's curators explore History's most memorable duels and all the aspects of a practice that is now an Olympic discipline.

Duels. The Art of Fighting guided tours (adults)

Up until August 18 – Duration 1 ½ hours

Led by a lecturer, these tours analyse the concept and the items on display in the exhibition, in order to trace the history of the practice of duelling throughout the centuries.

Duels. The Art of Fighting activity tours (7–12 year-olds)

On June 30 – 2.30pm – Duration 1 ½ hours

It's time for a duel at the Museum! Two clans are fighting to save their honour. Guided by a mediator, participants complete challenges related to the practice of duelling.

PROJECTIONS

Legendary confrontations, verbal sparring matches and head-to-head jousting await the public! A selection of six feature films will allow the public to discover the numerous variations that film-makers have invented around the motif of the duel.

June 7 – 7.30pm: Patrice Leconte's *Ridiculous* (France, 1996)

June 28 – 7.30pm: Damien Chazelle's *Whiplash* (France, 2014)

July 5 – 7.30pm: David LaChapelle's *Rize* (États-Unis, 2005)

July 10 – 3pm: Chris Miller's *Le Chat Potté* (États-Unis, 2011)

Free entrance (booking required), subject to availability:

reservations@musee-armee.fr



PUBLICATIONS



DUELS. THE ART OF FIGHTING

Duels. The Art of Fighting exhibition catalogue provides readers with a detailed panorama of portrayals and facts associated with single combat, as regards the places, eras and circumstances in which it flourished. A combination of essays by history, sports, literary and entertainment specialists, and detailed notes on all the works and items on display in the exhibition, this catalogue also offers readers new illustrations accompanied by specific essays that shed light on five famous duels.

Musée de l'Armée and In Fine Éditions publications. 336 pages, €35

SOLDIERS AND SPORTSMEN. A GREAT MATCH!

Containing illustrations of items from the Musée de l'Armée's collections and produced to coincide with the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this work traces the evolution of the connection between sport and the Armed Forces, from the Middle Ages to the present day, including sports training for soldiers, the high-performance sport performed by fighters, and reconstruction through sport.

Musée de l'Armée and Snoeck publications. 144 pages Available from 25 July 2024, €25



The entire programme on musee-armee.fr

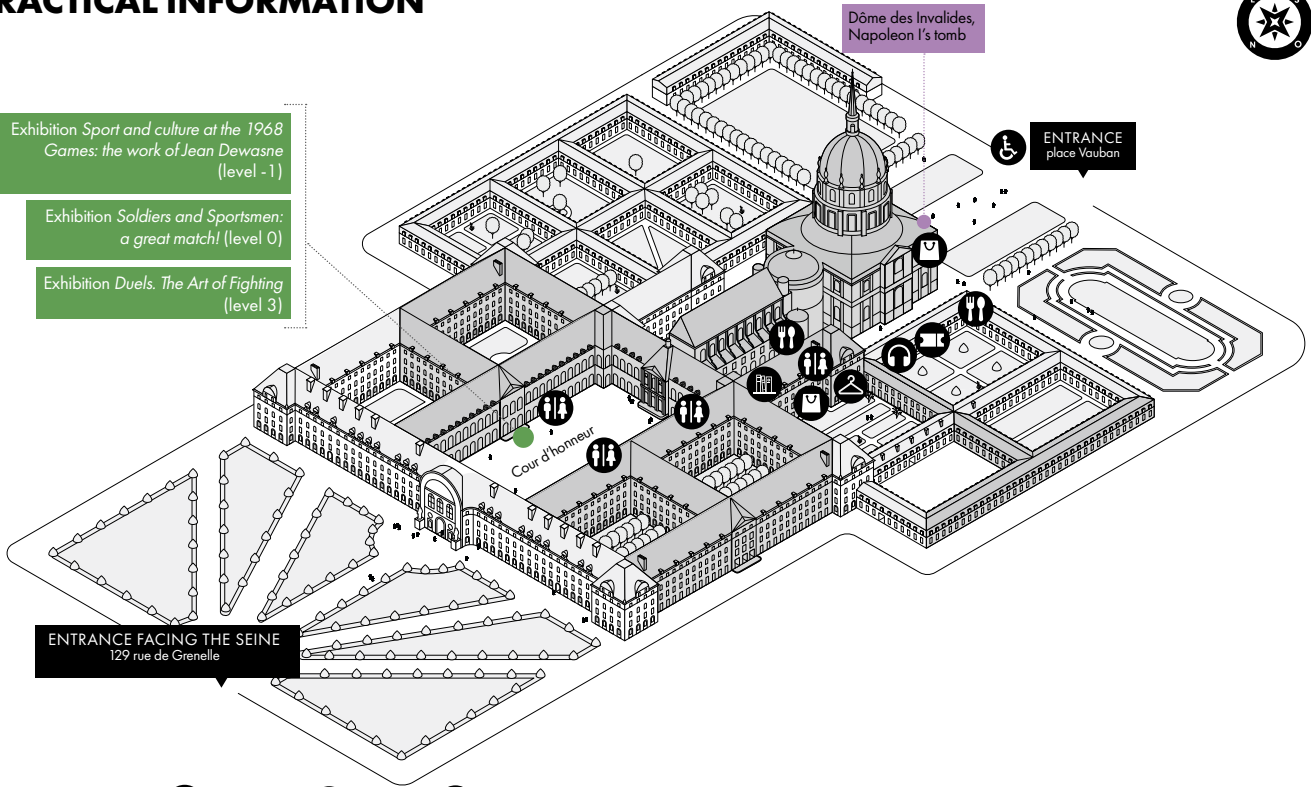
PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Exhibition *Sport and culture at the 1968 Games: the work of Jean Dewasne* (level -1)

Exhibition *Soldiers and Sportsmen: a great match!* (level 0)

Exhibition *Duels. The Art of Fighting* (level 3)



- Reception desk/tickets
- Bookshop/gift
- Cloakroom
- Disabled Access
- Digital guide
- Restaurant
- Study and Research Media Library
- Toilets

Located at the heart of the Hôtel National des Invalides, the Musée de l'Armée offers a 15,000 m² tour of French history seen through its wars and military events. A museum combining History, Fine Arts and Science and Technology, this institution was created in 1905 and preserves one of the richest collections of military history in the world, with almost 500,000 items (uniforms, weapons, armour, drawings, paintings, photographs, etc.), from the Bronze Age to the 21st century. It also offers the public the chance to visit the famous Dôme des Invalides, which houses the tomb of Napoléon Ist. With 1.2 million visitors per year, the Musée de l'Armée is one of Paris' most popular museums.

As part of its MINERVE extension and transformation project, the Museum has embarked on a programme of works that will enhance its cultural activities by providing new permanent exhibition spaces, and improve and enhance its facilities for receiving the public.

Come and explore the new spaces on 14 July 2024.

Musée de l'Armée

Hôtel national des Invalides
129, rue de Grenelle - 75007 Paris
+ 33(0)1 44 42 38 77
musee-armee.fr
contact@musee-armee.fr

Accès

- M8 La Tour-Maubourg
- M13 Invalides
- RER C Invalides

Prices

Single ticket (permanent collections + temporary exhibition)
Full price **€15**
Discounted price **€12**
Free for the under-18s
18–25-year-olds (EU nationals or residents) – excluding temporary exhibition (**€5**)
Group price **€10**
(minimum 10 individuals)
Audioguide: **€5**
Available in 5 languages
on sale at the Museum's tills and on the online ticket office

Bookings

Online ticket office: musee-armee.fr
Groups: groupes@musee-armee.fr

Guided tours

Families, schoolchildren and students: jeunes@musee-armee.fr
Adults: contact@cultural.fr
+33 (0)825 054405

Press contact

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View the Museum's entire programme on musee-armee.fr

Follow us!



Opening hours

The Museum is open every day throughout the summer, from 10am to 6pm, and until 10pm, in the evening on the first Friday of every month

The Musée de l'Armée is a partner in the Stadium – Héritage du Sport (the Legacy of Sport) digital project: stadium.musee-usport.fr/stadium

Cover: Tessa Worley, Anémone Marmottan and Marion Bertrand, gold medalists at the IIndWorld Winter Games from CISM (Conseil militaire international des sports), au Grand-Bornand, le 27 mars 2013 © Abaca Press / Alamy Banque d'images P.1: Facade of the Hôtel National des Invalides © Hélène Peter, Oppic, 2024; P.2: Poster for Les Gaîtés Olympiques © Paris- Musées, Musée Carnavalet; P.3: Poster for the exhibition © Wijnfje van Rooijen & Pierre Péronnet Graphics; P.4: Poster for the exhibition of Jean Dewasne's works for the Ice Stadium, 1967 © Paris, Musée de l'Armée, Dist. GrandPalaisRmn - Anne-Sylvaine Marre-Noël / Jean Dewasne, Proposal for the decoration of Grenoble's Ice Stadium, Frac-Occitanie, Les Abattoirs, Toulouse © Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI, Dist. GrandPalaisRmn / ADAGP, Paris 2024 P.5: Philippe de Poulpiquet and Jocelyn Truchet prior to a prothesis adjustment session, Seysinet-Pariset, 28 February 2012 © Paris, Musée de l'Armée, Philippe de Poulpiquet / Soldiers playing football in a field © Paris, Musée de l'Armée, Dist. GrandPalaisRmn; P.6: Military swimming training: French soldiers dive into a swimming pool dressed and armed © Photographer unknown / Collections La Documentation française / ECPAD / Cover for the Duels catalogue © In Fine / Cover for the catalogue Soldiers and sportsmen: A great match! © Editions Snoeck.

