



Paul Cézanne, Les grandes baigneuses [The Bathers], circa 1894-1905, oil on canvas, 127.2 x 196.1 cm, The National Gallery of London © The National Gallery, Londres, Dist. GrandPalaisRmn / National Gallery Photographic Department

PRESS RELEASE | EXHIBITION

CEZANNE ET NOUS *

23.09.26 → 17.01.27

*Cezanne and Us

Grand Palais, Galleries 3 and 4

Exhibition co-produced by GrandPalaisRmn, Établissement Public du Musée d'Orsay et du Musée de l'Orangerie – Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and the Centre Pompidou

General Curatorship

Director of the Musée de l'Orangerie, Claire Bernardi
Director of the Musée national d'art moderne - Centre Pompidou, Xavier Rey

Curators

Paintings Curator of the Musée d'Orsay

Jean-Rémi Touzet

Curator of the Contemporary Collections Department, Musée national d'art moderne - Centre Pompidou, Michel Gauthier

Scenography

Architect, Centre Pompidou

Pauline Phélouzat

This unique exhibition offers a rich, ongoing dialogue between works by Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) and those by artists who, from the late 19th century to the present day, have consistently drawn inspiration from his body of work to reinvent painting. Some 180 pieces are presented: 70 by Cézanne and 75 by other artists.

It tells the story of an unparalleled legacy, one that unfolds through an interplay of influence and the assertion of a shared master, starting with his first followers: in the 1880s and 1890s, at a time when Cézanne was weary of failure and no longer seeking to exhibit, a few painters discovered his work in Père Tanguy's shop, to their astonishment. His radical form encouraged them in their search for art that was "pure" and already heading towards abstraction.

The exhibition then addresses key moments in the artist's rise to prominence, starting by highlighting the importance of art dealer Ambroise Vollard, through both his immense collection and the first exhibitions that he devoted to the artist between 1895 and 1906. The first museum acquisitions, the posthumous exhibition at the 1907 Salon d'Automne and major international exhibitions in the 1910s are also featured.

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These events contributed to the artist's critical and commercial success, establishing him as the father of modernity. The exhibition shows the many ways in which Cézanne's work was received by the international and European avant garde movements of the 1910s, which all questioned the relationship between artwork and reality and reflected, like Cézanne, on the idea that "art is a harmony parallel with nature".

This rich and varied reception from the very beginning is the central theme of the exhibition. It shows how, starting with Cézanne, the triumph of modern art and that of the formalism associated with it – the reduction of painting to the fundamental elements of its composition – are constantly being worked on or surpassed. The artist became one of the uncontested fathers of Western modern art. In the post-war period, he was still regarded by figures driving a revival of abstraction in Europe and the United States, whether proponents of lyrical and optical abstraction or of hard-edge painting. It is this nuanced history, in which each defends their own version of Cézanne just as much as the path they are themselves exploring, that is presented here. It further asks what has become of him in the post-modern era that is challenging his mythical position.

Cézanne and us is the first exhibition to tell the two sides of this story, from the 1880s to the present day. The story of his fundamental influence and the reverse narrative of artists who claimed to be inspired by him and made him "the father of us all", in the words of Picasso. This is how we arrive at shifting, complex and sometimes contradictory representations of an artist who was rejected from the Paris School of Fine Arts but became one of the cornerstones of Western modern art: "Cézanne and us" speaks to both the "us" of the artists and the "us" of the viewers, who look at Cézanne through them.

Preliminary list of artists presented in the exhibition :

Paul Cézanne /
Etel Adnan, Émile Bernard, Martin Barré,
Georg Baselitz, Max Beckmann, Erwin Blumenfeld,
Umberto Boccioni, Pierre Bonnard, Georges Braque,
Pierre Buraglio, Charles Camoin, Bill Culbert,
Maurice Denis, André Derain, Robert Delaunay,
Peter Doig, Raoul Dufy, Stefan Gierowski,
Alberto Giacometti, Natalia Gontcharova,
Paul Gauguin, Philip Guston, Richard Hamilton,
Simon Hantaï, Marsden Hartley, Florence Henri,
Hans Hofmann, David Hockney, Jasper Johns,
Ellsworth Kelly, André Kertész, Per Kirkeby,
Bertrand Lavier, Fernand Léger, Roy Lichtenstein,
Aristide Maillol, Alberto Magnelli, Kasimir Malevitch,
Brice Marden, André Masson, Henri Matisse,
Joan Mitchell, Amedeo Modigliani, Piet Mondrian,
Vera Molnár, Richard Mortensen, Robert Morris,
Paul Nash, Max Pechstein, Pablo Picasso,
Serge Poliakoff, André Raffray, Albert Renger-Patzsch,
Bridget Riley, Claude Rutault, Morgan Russell,
Sean Scully, Pierre Sérusier, Pierre Soulages,
Clyfford Still, Paul Strand, Władysław Strzemiński,
Edward Steichen, Nicolas de Staël, Pierre Tal-Coat,
Mark Tansey, Wolfgang Tillmans, Gérard Traquandi,
Luc Tuymans, Fabienne Verdier, Victor Vasarely,
Maria Helena Vieira da Silva, Maurice de Vlaminck,
Herman de Vries, Vincent van Gogh,
Tom Wesselmann, Robert Wilson, Zao Wou-Ki



Jean Hélion, *Figure tombée* [Fallen Figure], April 1939 – September 1939, oil on canvas, 126.2 x 164.3 cm © Adapp, Paris 2026 photo: Centre Pompidou MNAMCCI Georges Meguerditchian Dist GPRmn

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Practical information

Access

Square Jean Perrin
17 Avenue du Général Eisenhower,
75008 Paris
Metro line 1 and 13: Champs
Élysées-Clemenceau
or line 9: Franklin D. Roosevelt

Opening

Tuesday to Sunday
10 am to 7.30 pm
Late opening until 10 pm on Fridays
Closed on Mondays

Book at

billetterie.centrepompidou.fr

Publications

- exhibition catalogue

co-published by GrandPalaisRmnÉditions / Éditions du Centre Pompidou / EPMD, 256 pages, 250 illustrations, €45

- exhibition journal

co-published by GrandPalaisRmnÉditions / Éditions du Centre Pompidou / EPMD, 24 pages, 40 illustrations, €7

- "Si Cézanne a raison..." book

GrandPalaisRmnÉditions, Paris 2026, 128 pages, 50 illustrations, 14,90 €

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