

2026 EXHIBITION PROGRAMME AT THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

Versailles, 16 December 2025
Press Release

The Château de Versailles unveils a richly diverse exhibition programme for 2026. Spring will open with *Gardens of Enlightenment (1750–1800)*, devoted to the enthusiasm of eighteenth-century Europeans for Anglo-Chinese gardens, where nature, exoticism and philosophical inquiry intertwine. In autumn, the Château will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Sofia Coppola's film *Marie Antoinette*, a work that profoundly renewed the imagery associated with the Château and the perception of France's last queen. A major exhibition will then be dedicated to the Dutch Mannerist sculptor Adriaen De Vries, several of whose masterpieces once formed part of the royal collections. Finally, the year will conclude with an exhibition by photographer Yasumichi Morita, whose singular gaze captures the most subtle details of Versailles' architecture, poised between shadow and light.

GARDENS OF ENLIGHTENMENT (1750-1800)

5 MAY - 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

GRAND TRIANON & ENGLISH GARDEN OF THE PETIT TRIANON

In spring 2026, *Gardens of Enlightenment (1750–1800)* will open, a major exhibition bringing together nearly 150 works — paintings, drawings, furniture, architectural projects and costumes — to reveal the originality and diversity of landscaped gardens designed in the second half of the eighteenth century. Inspired by a model that emerged in Great Britain in the 1730s, this new style freed itself from the rules of the French formal garden, breaking with symmetry and geometric layouts in favour of irregularity, the picturesque and a poetic evocation of nature. From the middle of the century onwards, this aesthetic spread across northern Europe in a wave of Anglomania that combined eccentric garden follies, philosophical reverie, a taste for exoticism and the search for an intimate refuge. The exhibition explores its many sources — from Antiquity to China — as well as the new ways of life it accompanied, oscillating between rural pleasures, festivities and contemplation. The exhibition route will engage in close dialogue with the historic gardens of the Trianon estate, offering a new perspective on the elements of its English garden: the Belvedere, the Temple of Love and the Queen's Hamlet.



The borders of the Bagatelle pavilion, Louis Belanger, 1785,
gouache on vellum © Château de Versailles, Dist. RMN / ©
Christophe Fouin

CURATORSHIP

Elisabeth Maisonnier,
Chief Curator of Heritage, Château de Versailles

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Yolande-Martine-Gabrielle de Polastron, Duchess of Polignac,
Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun, 1782, oil on canvas © Château de Versailles,
Dist. RMN / © Christophe Fouin

"MARIE ANTOINETTE" BY SOFIA COPPOLA
FROM 22 SEPTEMBER 2026 TO 24 JANUARY 2027
PETIT TRIANON

In September 2026, the Château de Versailles will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Sofia Coppola's film *Marie Antoinette* through an exhibition presented at the Petit Trianon, a place intimately linked to the queen and the setting for numerous scenes of the film. Now a cult classic, *Marie Antoinette* profoundly renewed the image of the last queen, helping to shape a cultural icon blending history, modernity and pop imagination. Awarded the Academy Award for Best Costume Design in 2007, Sofia Coppola's distinctive aesthetic—combining historical rigour, contemporary boldness and pastel refinement—gave rise to a true "Marie Antoinette style", whose influence is still felt in fashion, design and photography.

Deployed at the heart of the Trianon estate, the exhibition will invite visitors behind the scenes of this cinematic creation: original costumes by Milena Canonero, filming accessories, storyboards, annotated scripts, set photographs and set design sketches.

Screenings will allow visitors to revisit sequences filmed in the very rooms where they were shot, offering a unique immersive experience in which the historic space and its cinematic reinterpretation resonate with one another.

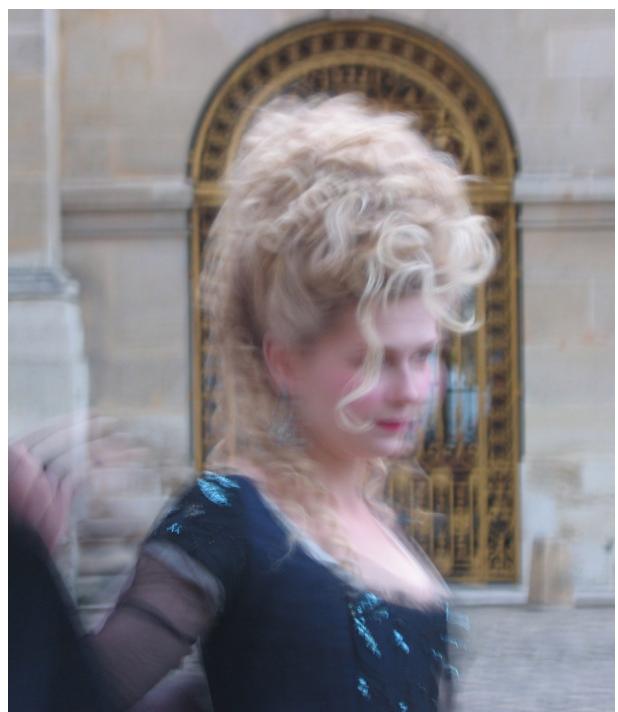
CURATORSHIP

Laurent Salomé, Director of the National Museum of the Châteaux of Versailles

Hélène Delalex, Chief Curator of Heritage, Château de Versailles



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ADRIAEN DE VRIES

17 NOVEMBER 2026 – 2 MAY 2027
EMPIRE ROOMS, MIDI WING

From 17 November 2026 to 2 May 2027, the Château de Versailles will present an exhibition dedicated to Adriaen De Vries, a major figure in early seventeenth-century European sculpture. Thanks to an exceptional collaboration with the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, the exhibition will bring together for the first time since 1998 a significant group of the sculptor's works, placed at the heart of the artistic dialogue that once united the courts of France, Sweden and Italy. The exhibition will benefit from a unique architectural setting: the galleries open widely onto the Parterre du Midi designed by André Le Nôtre, which inspired Nicodemus Tessin the Younger for the park of Drottningholm, underscoring the extent to which garden settings shaped the reception of European sculpture. De Vries was admired by Louis XIV, who in 1694 chose to install one of his masterpieces — formerly in the collection of Queen Christina — in the Orangery gardens; the work is now housed in the Musée du Louvre. Considered the greatest open-air sculpture museum in the world, the Château de Versailles offers, through this exhibition, an opportunity to rediscover an essential artist whose work, heir to the Italian Renaissance and admired throughout Europe, continually enriched the language of Baroque sculpture.



Adriaen de Vries, *Triton* (detail), c. 1617
© Nationalmuseum

CURATORSHIP

Christophe Leribault, President of the Château de Versailles



Adriaen De Vries, *Mercury Crowning a Lion* (detail),
16th–17th century © Nationalmuseum

YASUMICHI MORITA

FROM 8 DECEMBER 2026

APPARTEMENT DE MADAME DE MAINTENON

The Japanese interior architect and photographer Yasumichi Morita explored the Château de Versailles over several years, through the changing seasons, to compose a photographic reportage imbued with silence, materiality and light. First presented in 2023 at the Chanel Nexus Hall in Tokyo under the title *In Praise of Shadows* — an explicit homage to the famous aesthetic essay by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki — this series draws its inspiration from the human history of the château: from the gestures, traces and presences that have shaped the site. Morita captures what he calls “the narrow space between light and darkness”, where the sensitive memory of Versailles’ interiors emerges. The exhibition presents a selection of these meditative black-and-white images, revealing an intimate Versailles in which plays of shadow and light become discreet witnesses to centuries past.

