

Les Rencontres des Arts Décoratifs

Decorative Arts, Fashion, Design, Gardens around 1925

—
Thursday, April 10th, 2025



Interest is high today in the links between the arts, craft and industry. Classes, seminars and conferences are ever more numerous, encouraging a deepening of our knowledge of these relations and bringing out methodological, theoretical, patrimonial and technical debates.

The Rencontres des Arts Décoratifs aim to contribute to the structuring of this relatively new field within art history by lending visibility to young researchers.

Universities, art and architecture schools as well as private and public heritage institutions are invited to participate in this discussion. Students with at least a first year Master's degree (*Master 1*), PhD candidates and those having recently defended are invited to present untapped collections, works that have gone unnoticed, forgotten techniques and little-known esthetic movements to a wide audience. Analyses and discussions are mediated by recognized specialists in the field, chosen for the acuteness of their vision on the topic and the originality of their approach. Each *Rencontre* is followed by a tour of an exhibition, archives or collection. The venue for this event, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, is highly symbolic: originating in the mid-19th century in order to educate artists, artisans and specialized workers, to spread knowledge and to promote contemporary creation, it is the ideal context for highlighting the many dimensions of "doing" that even today continue to give life to the creation of objects. Coming together for this annual event, young scholars, professors, professionals and amateurs are invited to think together in historical, critical and prospective manner about the crossing trajectories of the conception of forms, the fabrication of objects and the organization of lived spaces.

Steering Committee

Jérémie Cerman, Associate professor, Université d'Artois, UR 4027 –
Centre de Recherche et d'Études Histoire et Sociétés (CREHS)

Rossella Froissart, Research Director, École Pratique des Hautes Études,
EA 4116 - Savoirs et pratiques du Moyen Âge à l'époque contemporaine (SAPRAT)

Bénédicte Gady, Curator, Musée des Arts Décoratifs

Sébastien Quéquet, Associate Curator, Musée des Arts Décoratifs

Estelle Thibault, History and Architectural Culture Professor,
École nationale supérieure d'architecture Paris-Belleville, IPRAUS/UMR AUSSER 3329

Céline Trautmann-Waller, Research Director, École Pratique des Hautes Études, EA 4116 –
Savoirs et pratiques du Moyen Âge à l'époque contemporaine (SAPRAT)

**Framework for the Fourth Rencontre:
“Ruhlmann as Decorator”
(March 5th → June 8th, 2025)**

2025 marks the centenary of the *Exposition internationale des Arts décoratifs et industriels modernes* (International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts), held in Paris from April 28th to November 30th, 1925.

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs will celebrate Art Deco in five stages:

→ A gallery display dedicated to Ruhlmann as a decorator, accompanying the inauguration of the Department of Drawings, Wallpaper and Photographs, from March 5th to June 8th, 2025;

→ A Paul Poiret retrospective from June 25th, 2025, to January 11th, 2026;

→ A grand ball celebrating French fashion and lifestyle on July 6th, 2025;

→ A centennial exhibition of 1925, from October 25th, 2025, to March 29th, 2026;

→ The reinstallation of the Art Deco rooms in the Museum’s permanent collection.

Robert Mallet-Stevens
(Paris, 1886 – *id.*, 1945) —
*Projet de jardin pour
l’esplanade des Invalides*
Circa 1924-1925
Graphite and gouache
on wove paper
Inv. RI 2019. 27.12



More broadly, various meetings and special journal issues will commemorate, in France, this exhibition, considered foundational at least semantically, as it gave its name to what we retrospectively call Art Deco.

This study day will deepen the knowledge of the exhibition itself, its key players, the diverse aesthetic aspirations displayed, as well as its successes and failures. It will also invite reflection on the issues of chronology and definition raised by the term “Art Deco” which refers alternately to a style or a period, which did not emerge in 1925 but found a form of culmination in the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts.

Like previous *Rencontres*, this fourth event aims to adopt a broad perspective, open to all approaches. The topic is considered in its connections with decorative arts, as well as architecture, garden design, fashion, graphic design, cinema, and more. Proposals may range from case studies to cross-cultural histories that embrace the international dimension of this topic. They may also extend to aesthetic trends that developed abroad in parallel.

The call is open to proposals from young international researchers.

Presentation proposals of approximately 2500–5000 characters (including spaces), along with a bio-bibliography, should be submitted by December 15th, 2024, to the following addresses:

- jeremie.cerman@gmail.com
- rossella.froissart@ephe.psl.eu
- benedicte.gady@madparis.fr
- sebastien.quequet@madparis.fr
- estelle.thibault@paris-belleville.archi.fr
- celine.trautmann-waller@ephe.psl.eu