

# M RUPERT DE CHIEVRES MUSEUM

This museum occupies the former town house of M. Rupert de Chièvres, a 19<sup>th</sup> century poitevan art collector. The intimate atmosphere of the rooms, furnished with pieces from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, serves as a backdrop for a collection of paintings. They include historical and genre scenes, as well as portraits from the Dutch and Flemish Golden Age, along with 18<sup>th</sup> century French portraits and masterpieces from the Italian schools.



Vue intérieure du musée

A china cabinet displays pieces from major French and foreign production centres, while precious enamel panels of the Renaissance are exposed alongside period furniture. The latter shows the evolution of decorative art from the late Middle Ages to the Revival styles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

# M THE DUNES HYPOGEUM



The Two Thieves, fragment from the base of a Crucifixion Dunes Hypogeum, (7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.)

This chapel built in the middle of an ancient necropolis by the abbot Mellebaude is one of the most eloquent monuments of the Early Middle Ages. Closed to the public for conservation reasons, it is presently undergoing restoration and is the object of international study.

# M THE MUSEUMS IN POITIERS

## Cultural service

- Group visits
- Museum booklet on current cultural and scientific events
- Guided tours of the collections
- Conferences
- Documentary film projections
- Special events: concerts, lectures, films, dance...

## Educational resources

- School groups, art initiation visits and workshops
- Educational booklets for teachers
- Workshops and fun activities during school vacations

## Reference Library

- (on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the museum offices, esplanade Mendès-France)
- Specialized in art history and in archaeology, it is accessible to scholars and students on appointment
  - Books can be consulted on the spot, as well as access to the network of the city media library and the school of fine arts.

## Book Stand (Sainte-Croix museum)

- Books on the collections, exhibit catalogues, monographs on artists, posters and post cards of the museum's collection.
- Books can be bought by mail (shipping fees added)

# M THE MUSEUMS IN POITIERS

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 musees@mairie-poitiers.fr  
 www.musees-poitiers.org

Sainte-Croix Museum  
 3 bis, rue Jean Jaurès

Rupert-de-Chièvres Museum  
 9, rue Victor Hugo

## Opening times from october 1<sup>st</sup> to may 31<sup>st</sup>

- Monday :** from 1.15 to 5 pm  
**From Tuesday to Friday :** from 10 to 12 am / from 1.15 to 5 pm  
**Saturday and Sunday :** from 2 to 6 pm  
**Open all day :** on Tuesday at the Sainte-Croix museum from 10 to 5 pm

## Opening times from june 1<sup>st</sup> to september 30<sup>st</sup>

- Monday :** from 1.15 to 6 pm  
**From Tuesday to Friday :** from 10 to 12 am / from 1.15 to 6 pm  
**Saturday and Sunday :** from 10 to 12 am / from 2 to 6 pm

**Late openings :** Tuesday at the Sainte-Croix museum till 8 pm  
 Thursday at the Rupert-de-Chièvre museum till 9 pm

Les musées sont fermés les jours fériés, sauf :  
 le 11 novembre, le jeudi de l'Ascension, le 14 juillet et le 15 août

## Costes of admission to the museums

(susceptibles d'être modifiés par arrêté municipal)

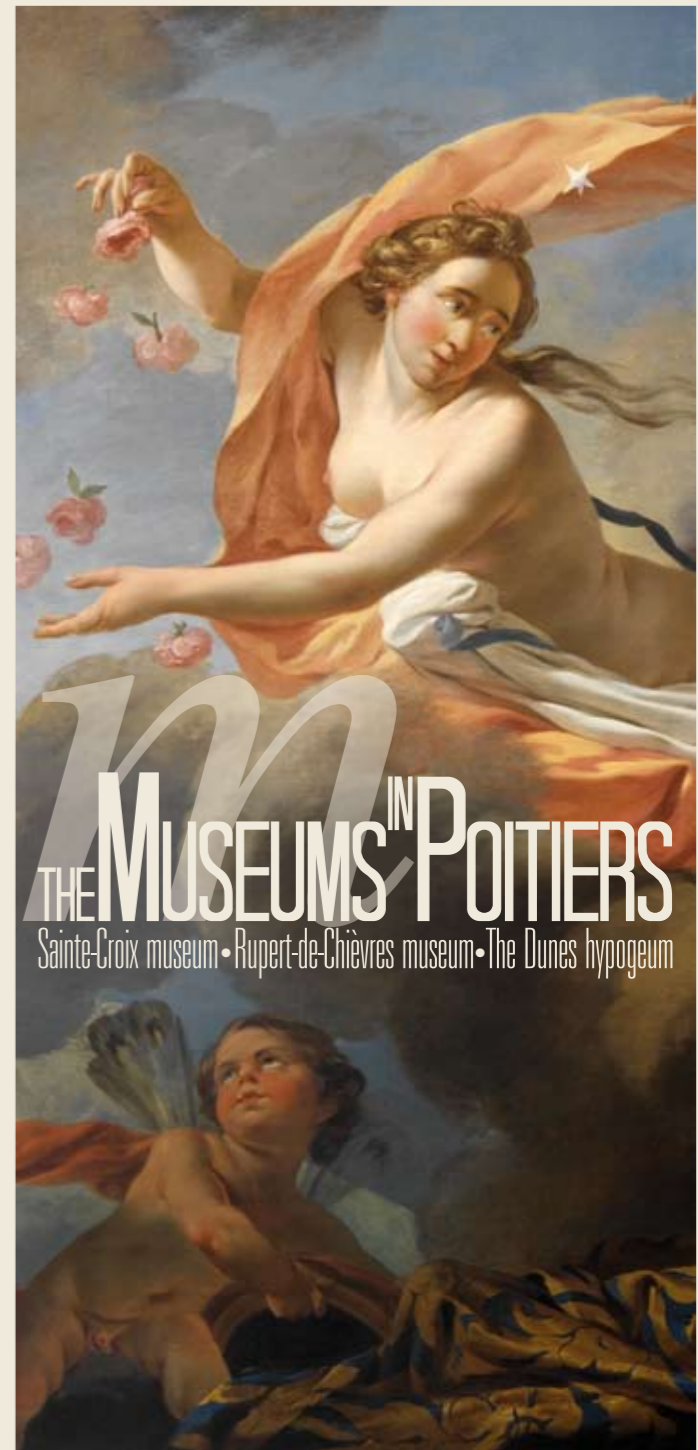
- **Individuale:** 3,70 € combined ticket for the two museums
- **Groups :** 2,70 € combined ticket for the two museums
- **Free of charge:** Moins de 18 ans, groupes scolaires, centres de loisirs, étudiants, guides-conférenciers et journalistes, enseignants en activité, membres S.A.O., Amis des musées de Poitiers, Icom, adhérents à la Maison des artistes, RMistes, handicapés (sur présentation d'une carte d'invalidité)
- **Free entry to the museums:** every Tuesday and on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month

Cover : L'Ascension et Tibon, Jean-Baptiste Marie Pierre (1797) - Abbat

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VILLE DE



# M SAINTE-CROIX MUSEUM

## ARCHAEOLOGY

In the lower floor, a section devoted to regional archaeology traces the history of Poitou from Prehistory to the Middle Ages.

Astonishing for the palaeolithic era, the unusual carvings from the La Marche cave occupy an important place in Magdalenian art. The Neolithic period is abundantly illustrated with artefacts from the Patte collection : ceramics, tools of flint and bone, and jewellery found in the various sites of St-Martin-la-Rivière, Bellefonds, Fleuré, Puyraveau. One exceptional site the is the Camp Allaric (Pautreau survey) : the protohistoric levels have delivered painted and incised pottery with geometrical and human figures. Bronze-age artefacts (from Notre-Dame d'Or, le Verger-Gazeau, and Vénat) as well as funeral artefacts from the first Iron age (the Mia tomb) are also exposed in this section.

*La Marche cave  
Engraved limestone plaque  
representing a seated female figure  
(Magdalenian period)*



▲ *Notre-Dame d'Or deposit  
various objects, copper alloys (late Bronze age)*

*Athena (Minerva) - Marble, 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. ▶*



Besides the walls of dwellings conserved on the spot, the sculptures discovered in and around the ancient city demonstrate the romanisation of *Lemonum*, the capital of the Pictons. Lifestyle, religion and funeral rites are explained through the display of monumental statuary, but also through objects of daily life. Dating from late antiquity, remains of the oldest Christian stucco relief found in Gaul, sculpted sarcophagi, jewellery, epitaphs, and sculptures from the Dunes hypogeum evoke the birth of Christian art in Poitou.

*Verreries d'origine italienne  
provenant d'Antran  
(1<sup>er</sup> siècle ap J.-C.)*



*Sculpted capital, known as « the Quarrel »  
Limestone, 11<sup>th</sup> century*

On the ground level, the reliquary vase from the abbey of Saint-Savin-sur-Gartempe (an exceptionally rare glass piece unique in Europe) introduces the visitor to the Middle ages. Medieval sculptures, most of which come from now lost buildings, recall that Poitou was great center of Romanesque art. The sculpted capital of « the Quarrel » remains as a masterpiece of this period.

## FINE ARTS

This department is spread out on three levels and displays different major art movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The visit begins with with the Neoclassical school of David (Gauffier, Valenciennes, Broc), the school of Ingres (Amaury-Duval, Burthe, Flandrin), Orientalism (Chassériau, Fromentin), Symbolism (Redon, Moreau) and academic painting (Brouillet).

Works on the threshold of the 20<sup>th</sup> century show the passage to modern art (Sisley, Bonnard, Vuillard, Mondrian). The 20<sup>th</sup> century rooms display fine paintings from the 20s and 30s (Romaine Brooks, Marquet, Ducos de la Haille, Fautrier).



*Romaine Brooks,  
Portrait of Paul Morand  
(1925)*

The sculpture collection includes major works by Barye, Rodin and especially Camille Claudel.

Important transformations programmed for 2008-2011 will allow for a better and new presentation of the museums rich art collection.



*Camille Claudel,  
Woman with eyes closed  
(1885)*

## POITIERS IN ART IN HISTORY

This department evokes the history and landscapes of Poitiers and its region. The visitor can discover a series of landscapes from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, showing views of the town and the poitevan countryside.

Major works include « The siege of Poitiers by Gaspard de Coligny in 1569 » painted by François Nautré in 1619, the spectacular « Grand'Goule » – a sculpted dragon made by Jean Gargot in 1677 – and a remarkable series of Dutch paintings given to Flandrine de Nassau, the abbess of Ste-Croix from 1604 to 1640.



*Jean Gargot,  
La Grand'Goule  
(1677)*