



Ville de
BORDEAUX

bordeaux.fr



MusBA
Musée
des Beaux-Arts
Bordeaux



Musée
TESSÉ
Le Mans

Sage comme une image?

Childhood through the eyes of the artist

1790-1850

14 February - 8 June 2025
Le Mans, Tessé Museum

10 July - 3 November 2025
Bordeaux Fine Arts Gallery



After three years of enriching collaboration with the Louvre Museum (2019-2021) and the Musée d'Orsay (2022), Bordeaux Fine Arts Museum (MusBA) is renewing its partnership dynamic in 2025 with major national and regional museums.

MusBA will be joining forces with the Tessé Museum in Le Mans and the Louvre Museum to present *Like butter wouldn't melt? Childhood through the eyes of the artist*, an exhibition that explores the roles assigned to children and their representations in art in French society from 1790 to 1850. The exhibition is based on a fertile dialogue between the academic arts (painting and sculpture) and the then new medium of photography.

This still relatively little studied half-century in the history of France was a turbulent time in politics and philosophy and extremely fecund in the arts. What representations of childhood did the painters, sculptors and photographs of this period propose? How did these images adhere to the spirit of the times, and in what ways did they diverge from certain social realities? Can we see ourselves in them still today? Are our perspectives able to accept and understand them all?

The chronological and thematic visit route leads the visitor from the legend of innocence inherited from the Enlightenment to children in the military, from cursed princes to orphans, and from labourers to geniuses, through a large gallery of painted, sculptural or photographic portraits.

Alongside the great names of the period, such as Eugène Delacroix, Théodore Géricault, Anne-Louis Girodet, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Camille Corot, Pierre-Jean David d'Angers, James Pradier and Honoré Daumier, the exhibition showcases artists who are less well known because they were women or were far from the Parisian circles, such as Auguste de Châtillon, Jeanne-Elisabeth Chaudet and Sophie Feytaud-Tavel, as well as previously unseen or rarely presented works.

Benefitting from exceptional loans from the Louvre Museum, the exhibition is composed of approximately 100 works (paintings, sculptures, graphic arts works and photographs) from French public and private collections, particularly from the Parisian region and western France. The Bordeaux section also showcases collections from South-West France, with works from several museums in Nouvelle-Aquitaine (Libourne Fine Arts Museum, the Bordeaux Museum of Design and the Decorative Arts, the Musée d'Aquitaine, Goupil Museum and the Museum of Art and History of La Rochelle).

In resonance with this exhibition, MusBA is presenting, in partnership with medico-social organisations, an exhibition to view and listen to from its own collections (12 June 2024 - 8 January 2025, Actualités Room, Lacour Wing), and new signs in the permanent exhibition to better identify works in connection with childhood and youth beyond the chronological bounds of the temporary exhibition.

Exhibition catalogue

Forthcoming publication by Éditions Liénart, February 2025.

Scientific Curators

Stéphanie Deschamps-Tan, Head Curator in the Sculptures Department of the Louvre Museum

Côme Fabre, Curator in the Paintings Department of the Louvre Museum.

Curators, MusBA, Bordeaux

Sophie Barthélémy, Director, Curator General

Chloë Théault, Deputy Director, Associate Curator.

Curators, Tessé Museum, Le Mans

Alice Gandin, Museums Director of Le Mans, Curator General

Carole Hirardot, Associate Curator.

Cover image

Théodore Géricault, *Louise Vernet enfant*, the daughter of painter Horace Vernet, later the wife of painter Paul Delaroche, 1800-1825, oil on canvas © Musée du Louvre, RMN-GP, photo: Michel Urtado.

Practical information

Musée des Beaux-Arts

20, cours d'Albret

33 000 Bordeaux

Tel.: +33 (0)5 56 10 20 56

musba@mairie-bordeaux.fr

www.musba-bordeaux.fr

**MusBA Press / Communication
Department**

Perrine Martin-Benejam

p.benejam@mairie-bordeaux.fr

Tel.: +33 5 56 10 25 17

www.musba-bordeaux.fr

**MusBA National and International Press
Contact**

Claudine Colin Communication, a FINN
Partners company

Colombe Charrier

Press officer

Tel.: +33 1 42 72 60 01

colombe.charrier@finnpartners.com

**Le Mans Tessé Museum Press
Department**

Alambret Communication

Louise Comelli

Tel: +33 1 48 87 70 77

louise@alambret.com

**Bordeaux City Council Press
Department**

Nicolas Corne

Tel.: +33 5 56 10 20 46

n.corne@mairie-bordeaux.fr

x.com/bordeauxpresse