



**MUSÉE DE CLUNY**  
le monde médiéval

**PRESS RELEASE**  
March 2025

## SUMMON THE CHIMERAS: MEDIÉVAL HERITAGE IN CONTEMPORARY ART

How do the Middle Ages inspire contemporary creation? From 25 March to 20 July 2025, the Musée de Cluny, the National Museum of the Middle Ages, presents the exhibition *Summon the Chimeras: Medieval Heritage in Contemporary Art*, designed to create a dialogue between medieval and modern artworks. This exhibition is part of the *Berserk & Pyrrhia*, art contemporain et art médiéval programme being offered by the Fonds régional d'art contemporain Île-de-France (Île-de-France Regional Contemporary Art Fund).

The exhibition brings together some fifteen artworks from the Frac Île-de-France collection and contemporary artists, carefully positioned throughout the museum's normal visitor route. Their fantastical universes carry on the legacy of the medieval predilection for the hybrid and outlandish figures that inhabit our imaginations, tinged with the sense of heroic fantasy that is a frequent gateway to the Middle Ages, an often-romanticised era.

These chimeras pop up alongside the museum's own artworks, offering their own interpretation of medieval art. The visible and invisible overlap and intertwine to unveil an entire world apart, imbued with a style of thought fuelled by the supernatural. Contemporary sculptures using animal and botanical shapes draw upon the myths and traditions that fed into the imaginations of medieval artists. Straddling medieval Christianity and more profane medieval literature, the fictive power and emotional appeal of these contemporary artworks offer a sort of anthropology of the Middle Ages.

The artists' work also recounts the development of votive religious practices and veneration, which were increasingly affective in nature during the late Middle Ages. Medieval social customs such as games, reading or music are accompanied by artworks that tie artefacts back to their original functions, and evoke both the mystical (sometimes magical) and utilitarian roles of these past creations. Direct borrowing of motifs is coupled with a style of medievalism in which ancient tales and rites are revisited based on the artists' interest in love, friendship, belief, fiction, video games, the passage of time or the living world.

The exhibition is jointly curated by Rémi Enguehard, head of external displays and events for Frac Île-de-France, and Michel Huynh, head curator at the Musée de Cluny.



6 place Paul Painlevé  
75005 Paris  
T: 01 53 73 78 00

[musee-moyenage.fr](http://musee-moyenage.fr)  
@museecluny  
Musée de Cluny - musée  
national du Moyen Âge

With artworks by Jacopo Belloni, Corentin Darré, Erik Dietman, Frederik Exner, Richard Fauguet, Alison Flora, Diego Giacometti, Youri Johnson, Lou le Forban, Marion Verboom and Xolo Cuintle.

The exhibition is being held as part of the *Berserk & Pyrrhia, art contemporain et art médiéval* programme, curated by Céline Poulin, director of the Frac Île-de-France.

***Berserk & Pyrrhia***  
***Contemporary and medieval art***

Frac Île-de-France, Le Plateau, Paris et Les Réserves, Romainville  
22.03 – 20.07.25

This medieval heroic fantasy imagery of pop culture inhabits the worlds of today's artists. The *Berserk & Pyrrhia*\* exhibition highlights the circulation of medieval images and their later appropriation, and brings together medieval and contemporary art. Medieval works are on display at Le Plateau and Les Réserves, thanks to loans from the region's rich heritage collections and create an intergenerational and transhistorical dialogue.

At Le Plateau, in the spirit of Berserk, and with reference to the more mystical and romantic nineteenth-century interpretation of the medieval period, the works take us on an obscure and dark journey. At Les Réserves, they draw their references from the marvelous, anthropomorphic creatures and medieval bestiary and transport us to the world of Pyrrhia, underlining the important place of craftsmanship and community ties.

\* The title refers to the manga *Berserk* by Kentarō Miura and the books *Les Royaumes de feu* by Tui T. Sutherland.

**Contact :**

**Mathilde Fouillet**

Deputy Head of Communication and Partnerships

mathilde.fouillet@culture.gouv.fr

T. +33 (0) 1 53 73 79 04

P. +33 (0) 6 61 70 13 24

**Practical information**

**Museum entrance :**  
28 rue Du Sommerard  
75005 Paris

**Opening times :**  
Open every every day, except Monday,  
from 9.30 am to 6.15 pm  
Open 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evening of the  
month from 7 to 9 pm  
Closed on 25 December, 1 January  
and 1 May

**Book/gift shop :**  
9.30 am – 6.15 pm, free entry  
Tél. +33 (0) 1 53 73 78 22

**Directions :**  
Métro Cluny-La-Sorbonne/Saint-Michel/  
Odéon  
Bus n° 21 – 27 – 38 – 63 – 85 – 86 – 87  
RER lines B and C Saint-Michel – Notre-  
Dame

**Prices :**  
€12, concessions €10  
Free for those aged under 26 (EU citizens  
or on long stays in the EU) and for all  
visitors on the first Sunday of the  
month

Comment and share on Facebook,  
Instagram and Bleusky: [@museecluny](#)  
LinkedIn **Musée de Cluny - musée  
national du Moyen Âge**

## About the Musée de Cluny

Located in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the Musée de Cluny is the National Museum of the Middle Ages, inviting visitors to journey through time from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The 15<sup>th</sup>-century mansion was the private residence of the Abbots of Cluny, and abuts the Gallo-Roman thermal baths. The building now features a contemporary extension, inaugurated in 2018 and designed by architect Bernard Desmoulin.

This unique heritage site houses prestigious collections illustrating the extraordinarily vibrant creations of medieval artistry. From Merovingian jewellery to the Golden Rose, from the great sculpted altarpieces of ancient churches to the superb tapestries of the Lady and the Unicorn, the museum is home to 24,000 artefacts of all kinds.

The chronological journey unveils a thousand years of history, showcasing watershed moments such as the spread of Gothic sculpture during the construction of Notre Dame cathedral or the Sainte-Chapelle, as well as innovations such as the development of Limoges enamel or the emergence and mastery of stained glassmaking. Aesthetic differences from the north to the south of Europe are highlighted in fully renovated spaces.

## Frac Île-de-France

The Fonds régional d'art contemporain Île-de-France (Île-de-France Regional Contemporary Art Fund) plays an essential role in supporting contemporary artistic creation and access to art, using 3 inter-connected approaches:

- Enrichment and dissemination of its collection, mainly within the region
- A program of exhibitions and events at Le Plateau, Les Réserves and off-site
- Mediation initiatives for all audiences

Its program content deconstructs the established hierarchies of practices, exhibition spaces and geographical areas, placing Frac users as the central focus of its exhibitions, creative processes and collection. This occurs firstly through exhibitions at Le Plateau in Paris, at Les Réserves in Romainville, and in external locations throughout the Frac's network of partners in the cultural, community and medico-social spheres. Secondly, it occurs through the promotion of co-creation, amateur engagement, and opportunities to meet with artists, while also opening up the collection to participation, applying the concepts of cultural rights and popular education.

## Press contact

Lorraine Hussenot  
lohussenot@hotmail.com  
+33 1 48 78 92 20

