

PRESS RELEASE

500th anniversary



1516-1519

Leonardo da Vinci

au

Château du Clos Lucé
à Amboise



2016

500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's arrival at the Château du Clos Lucé in Amboise (1516-1519).

After François Ist's invitation, Leonardo da Vinci settles in Amboise during the autumn of 1516. Aged 64 years old, he crossed the Alps with two disciples, Francesco Melzi and his faithful Milanese servant Batista de Vilanis. He lived and worked there until his death, in his Clos Lucé's room on May 2nd 1519.

The Château du Clos Lucé's mission, led by the Saint Bris family since 1954, is to transmit to the larger public the legacy and the patrimony of this Renaissance genius. The five-centenary is a perfect occasion to retrieve the Mona Lisa's living workshop, to celebrate Leonardo's masterpieces and works realized in France. This anniversary is also a strong readjustment of his visionary and humanist values.

2016 will be marked by an exceptional program: A major exhibition, the end of 60 years of restoration works, novel shows and the Leonardo da Vinci award.



Exhibition

*From the Clos Lucé to the Louvre,
Three Leonardo da Vinci's masterpieces*
June 17th - December 31st of 2016

Exhibition commissioner: Alessandro Vezzosi

Honorary President : Carlo Pedretti

François Saint Bris - President of the Château du Clos Lucé

Catherine Simon Marion - Deputy director

This exhibition aims to remind and to highlight the five-centenary (1516-2016) of a crucial episode in Leonardo da Vinci's life: the savant artist leaves Roma for Amboise and settles in the Manoir du Cloux, nowadays named the Clos Lucé. This crucial event in Art History has also affected architecture, theater, science and technology.

On the way from Rome, Leonardo brings all his notebooks and sketches inside leather panniers, as a testimony of his artwork's richness and diversity. He also takes three masterpieces with him: *The Virgin, the child Jesus and Saint Anne*, *the Saint Jean Baptist* and the famous *Mona Lisa*.



The exhibition highlights the growing myth around these three paintings during the last five centuries. It also tells about the artworks genesis in Italy, then their trip from Amboise to Paris. The Research and Restoration Center of French Museums is presenting its studies on the *The Virgin, the child Jesus and Saint Anne* and *Mona Lisa*. The *Saint Jean Baptist* will reveal its secrets in 2016. The exhibition finally offers an actual view on artistic and cultural interpretations of these mythic masterpieces.



From top to bottom

La Vierge, l'Enfant Jésus et sainte Anne, Wyatt de Vivefay, d'après
Léonard de Vinci © Musée des Beaux-Arts de Chambéry

La Joconde, huile sur toile, attribuée à Ambroise Dubois, XVII^e siècle
© Collection château du Clos Lucé - Léonard de Seres

Saint Jean Baptiste, Léonard de Vinci © Musée du Louvre

Angelo incarnato, Léonard de Vinci © Fondation Pedretti

MAJOR CONSTRUCTIONS IN 2016

The golden horn's bridge

Leonardo's bridge

Initiated on June 3rd, 2016

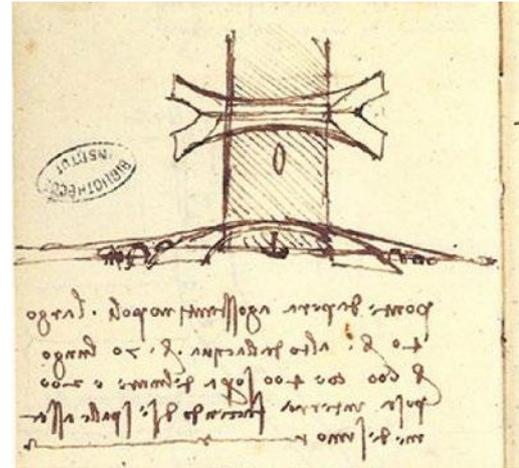
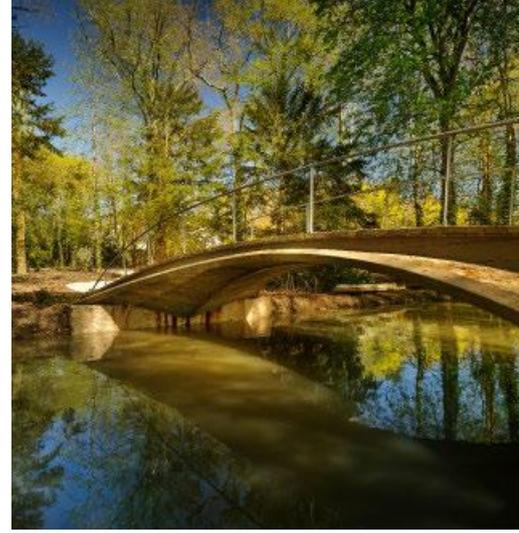
The Château du Clos Lucé inaugurates a new bridge. Adapted from Leonardo da Vinci's drawing, it is associated with a photographic exhibit about its achievement. This innovative work is conceived by Armediieval, specialist of ancient buildings, and under the advice of the Norwegian artist Vebjørn Sand.

Designed in oak, the bridge extends the Leonardo da Vinci Park, and belongs to the *Leonardo Bridge Project*. This project links a global network of unique bridges, as a link between sciences and cultures.

In 1502, Leonardo da Vinci designs a great bridge upon the Bosphorus, for the Sultan Bayezid II. 360 meters long, the bridge brings together the two shores of Constantinople, uniting Orient and Occident.

This ambitious plan is massive and elegant, as an architectural, an artistic, and a modern gesture. The two sides and parabolic arcs are unique because they contribute to resist to lateral wings.

Leonardo da Vinci's idea is not realized at that time, but it shapes today. The Château du Clos Lucé pays tribute to its universalism, his innovation mind, face to technological and revolutionary challenges of the Renaissance.



CULTURAL PROGRAM IN 2016

The Clos Lucé's nights

The Château du Clos Lucé offers a cultural program around Leonardo da Vinci's character. Two special nights pay tribute to his feast spirit. In July and August, the Clos Lucé offers novel shows, dedicated to the Tuscan genius.

July 22nd: Patrick Scheyder playing piano, narrated by Frédéric Lenoir
"Leonardo da Vinci, a free mind"

August 26th: Massimiliano Finazzer Flory
"Being Leonardo da Vinci. An Impossible Interview."



The European Renaissance Music Festival

11th edition - September 23rd, 24th & 25th of 2016

For this 11th edition, the Château du Clos Lucé is making a special 500th anniversary program. Since 2005, the place celebrates Leonardo da Vinci as a musician and talented performer, inviting the best ensembles to its festival.

Septembre 23rd

Septembre 24th

Septembre 25th

Douce Mémoire

Novel creation

**Ensemble Vadedo
& Latana Phoung**

The Van Kuijk Quartet



From top to bottom

Leonardo Bridge © Léonard de Serres

Manuscrit L, Léonard de Vinci © Bibliothèque Institut de France

Le Château du Clos Lucé © Léonard de Serres

Le FEMR © Léonard de Serres

The Van Kuijk Quartet - Claire Laballery © Adrien Vecchioni





THE CLOS LUCÉ EVERY DAY

The Château du Clos Lucé

The spirit of Leonardo da Vinci remains in the Château du Clos Lucé, mingling with the memory of all the famous guests who contributed to the richest times enjoyed by the building.

The Leonardo da Vinci Park

The countryside display at the Château du Clos Lucé is a top cultural attraction – a real journey of discovery, on the trail of Leonardo da Vinci's visionary genius. Enter the universe of Leonardo's creativity, enjoying a walk which is both fun and educational...

Leonardo's garden

The Château du Clos Lucé brings to life the Master's botanical drawings, geological studies and landscapes. Spread out over a hectare, "Leonardo's Garden", a real outdoor museum, has been landscaped and planted in the spirit of Leonardo da Vinci's paintings and drawings.

Permanent exhibits

Leonardo da Vinci and France

The Château du Clos Lucé presents a new exhibition: «Léonard de Vinci et la France» (Leonardo da Vinci and France), exploring ten years of the fascinating relationship between three kings of France and the Tuscan Master. The exceptional link that Leonardo da Vinci had with France, maintained by Charles VIII, Louis XII and Francis I, is one of the fundamental aspects of the Renaissance which took place in the Loire Valley.

Leonardo da Vinci the engineer

The fifty models produced from Leonardo da Vinci's drawings illustrate the variety of his engineering talents: aeronautical, industrial machines, maritime engineering, measuring instruments, mechanisms, civil engineering, architecture, military engineering. The collection is made of solid beech wood with some pieces of turned hornbeam.

Leonardo da Vinci Prize

6th edition

Awarded on June 9th in Rotterdam



For its 6th edition, the Leonardo da Vinci Prize, created in 2011 by the initiative of the Château du Clos Lucé, a cultural business, and the Henokiens Association of family businesses in existence for more than two hundred years, will be awarded to a family Dutch company, specialized in maritime engineering during 144 years.

The prize awards the great ability of the laureate to convey values through generations, to lean on innovation and adaptation, with ancestral expertise and tradition. After Italy, Germany, France and Japan, Netherlands will be rewarded in Rotterdam, on June 9th.

PRESS INFORMATIONS

Deputy director

Catherine Simon Marion

For more documents, visuals, requests for filming or visits, you may contact the Communication office:

Communication office

Irina Metz
closluce.com@vinci-closluce.com
Tel : +33 (0)2 47 57 55 78
Mob : +33 (0) 7 87 01 54 36
www.vinci-closluce.com

From top to bottom

Le Château du Clos Lucé
© Léonard de Serres

Leonardo da Vinci's bedroom
© Léonard de Serres

Leonardo da Vinci's prize © Droits réservés