

In Nancy, 1999 was the Year of the *Ecole de Nancy*

Organised on the initiative of Nancy City Council, this highly cultural year gave everyone an opportunity to rediscover the fantastic artistic movement that at the end of the 19th C, resulted in Nancy *Art nouveau* becoming famous all over the world. It was an opportunity for the city and the region to pay homage to the artists and art manufacturers whose aim was to make beautiful articles available to all. By revalorising this outstanding heritage and ensuring it will be better protected in the future, this celebratory Year also encouraged us today to reassess their particular approach and state of mind associating creation, research, training and the spirit of enterprise. An ambitious program of cultural events was mounted: many exhibitions on the *Ecole de Nancy* and the 1900 period, publications, seminars, series of conferences, circuits of *Art nouveau* visits and walks, meetings with art trade professionals, flea markets, concerts, shows, public dances and other celebrations...

The *Ecole de Nancy* 1889-1909

Exhibition presenting the period as a whole

24 April - 26 July 1999

Poirel Galleries, Nancy

A major exhibition, spread over 1,000m², presenting the *Ecole de Nancy* as a whole, with all the artists and different types of artistic creation forming part of Nancy *Art nouveau*, from Emile Gallé's triumph to Louis Majorelle at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1889 and the movement's last joint event at the 1909 Eastern France International Exhibition. The Exhibition was organised in two ways: chronologically with major exhibitions of regional, national and international decorative art with which the artists in the movement were associated, and a theme-based series examining specific questions relating to the birth of *Art nouveau*, from its methods of production (from unique objects to series production) and life styles. Some 400 works on show, chosen from French and international museums and private collections: furniture, glassware and ceramics, metal-working, architecture and stained glass, bookbinding, painting and sculpture, embroidery, jewellery, typography and printed works... Catalogue edited by François Loyer, Commissioner for the Exhibition

Ecole de Nancy - Flowers and Ornaments

"My roots are in the depths of the wood"

An exhibition on flora

24 April - 26 July 1999

Ecole de Nancy Museum, Nancy

An Exhibition of drawings, photographs and *objets d'art* (glass, ceramics, items of furniture) illustrating the central role played by flora, as inspiration, for *Ecole de Nancy* artists. Models from Emile Gallé's Workshops and Daum Glassworks, sketches, preparatory designs and botanical drawings, giving an idea of the vast diversity of species used and the continuous role played by flora throughout the *oeuvres* of these two famous creative artists. The *objets d'art* illustrated the various ways plants were employed and represented in glass, faïence and wood, i.e. the way in which the plant *motif* was shown and its interpretation in the structure or shape of the objects. The Exhibition also evoked the close relationships at the time between particular *Ecole de Nancy* artists and local horticulturalists who were creating new varieties of plant that would become models for decorations. The Exhibition continued in the Museum gardens research beds where the visitor saw some of the plants in the drawings and *objets d'art*. Some 150 works were on display. The audiovisual area of 300 m² presented: - "Visual Poems - The seven crystal flowers" illustrating some of the themes popular with *Ecole de Nancy* artists: natural milieus, lakes, forests, kitchen gardens... and some of the plants to be seen in the models and works. The Catalogue was edited by Valérie Thomas, Curator

Painting and *Art nouveau*

Nancy and Art in France, 1888 - 1916

24 April - 26 July 1999

Fine Arts Museum, Nancy

This Exhibition traces the route, from naturalism to symbolism, taken by two artists, Emile Friant and Victor Prouvé, in Paris and Nancy at the end of the 19thC. Friant went beyond the teachings of the School of Fine Art at the time without rejecting what he had learnt there. He joined forces with Jules Bastien-Lepage, another young man from Lorraine who was something of a hero in the 1880s. He was also relatively close to Pascal Dagnan-Bouveret and Jules Muenier, known for their quasi-photographic works inspired by everyday life. Prouvé was fascinated by the East and by Delacroix. An admirer of Rodin, he joined the National Fine Arts Society in 1891 where Eugène Carrière and Albert Besnard exhibited in particular. He stopped doing historical painting and devoted himself to portraits and decorative painting while actively pursuing the applied arts, which resulted in him become Chairman of the *Ecole de Nancy* on Emile Gallé's death in 1904. Some hundred paintings were on display in the 500m² of new galleries in the Nancy Fine Arts Museum. The works by Friant and Prouvé, as well as Bastien-Lepage, Carrière, Besnard, Raffaëlli, Dagnan-Bouveret, Muenier, Royer and Martin, were lent by private collections in Nancy, elsewhere in France and abroad. The catalogue was produced by Béatrice Salmon, Jean-Paul Midant and Gabriel Weisberg.

The *Ecole de Nancy* Year opening and closing seminars

Culture and Enterprise

Seminar

22 - 24 October 1998

Conference Hall, Nancy

An international seminar on the contemporary relevance of the "Art and Industry" link, the *Ecole de Nancy's* founding principle. The seminar brought together entrepreneurs, political leaders, experts and analysts from all over Europe who recounted their experiences and insisted on today's links between heritage and creativity, industrial restructuring, urban renovation and job creation.

The seminar consisted of five round tables:

- The economic potential of Europe's cultural heritage
- The part played by culture in regional development: case studies
- Investing in culture: is a cost-benefit analysis feasible?
- Investing in culture: what is the private sector looking for?
- Is a specifically European culture and economy partnership in the making?

The *Ecole de Nancy* and the Decorative Arts in Europe

Seminar

15 - 16 October 1999

This seminar closed the program of *Ecole de Nancy* exhibitions held in spring and summer 1999. It reported on the research provoked by these exhibitions and also attempted to compare the *Ecole de Nancy's* production with similar experiences in Paris, Brussels, Barcelona, Glasgow, Munich, Vienna and other centres of *Art nouveau*.

The seminar consisted of four half-day meetings on specific subjects:

- The historic centres of *Art nouveau*
- The means by which it spread
- The cultural context: literature, music and fine art
- Germany's contribution to *Art nouveau* and Franco-German relations

Each half day was led by a guest lecturer-moderator who also encouraged contributions from the public at the seminar. Four papers were presented on each subject.

The lectures were published in book form as the Proceedings of the seminar.

Ecole de Nancy

Mondays in Saurupt

A series of conferences

1, 8, 15 and 16 March 1999, 6.30pm

Ecole des Mines, Nancy

The Excelsior Conferences

A series of conferences

5 May, 1 July, 1 September 1999

Caveau de l'Excelsior, Nancy

The Dreyfus Affair - the *Ecole de Nancy's* commitment

Conference

20 May 1999

IFRAS Forum, Nancy

Art nouveau in Europe

Course of lectures, Ecole du Louvre

5 and 6 March, 19 and 20 March, 26 and 27 March 1999

Nancy Museum of Fine Art (auditorium)

Art nouveau in Europe and the *Ecole de Nancy*

Course of lectures, University International Summer School

20 May - 7 August 1999

European University Nancy-Metz Sites

Science and Technology

Physical Chemistry: Nancy 1899

Seminar

26-28 April 1999

Henri Poincaré University, Nancy

The Pichon Conferences: the rise of science and technology at the time of the *Ecole de Nancy*

A series of conferences

from 4 March to 8 April 1998

MJC Pichon, Nancy

The Nancy Schools - Liebault, Berheim, Coue

Symposium

15 October 1999, 2.30pm

Medical Faculty, Henri Poincaré University, Vandoeuvre

The Medical Faculty's "Transfer" from Strasbourg to Nancy

Seminar

15 May 1999

Neurological Hospital Amphitheatre

The Art, Science and Technology of Glass

Course of lectures, seminar

30 June, 1 - 2 and 6 - 7 July 1999

Lorraine National Polytechnic, Nancy

Second Meeting on Art Trades and Towns

Demonstrations, exhibitions, competition, seminar

14 - 16 May 1999

Nancy City Hall

- Forum on the training of young persons in the art trades and the transfer of know-how

- Exhibition
- Annual Meeting of Towns with the Art Trade Label (one day seminar) in collaboration with the French Association of Art Trades and Towns
- Training courses

Other events

[Visits and walks](#)

[Celebrations and entertainment](#)

[Poetry and Plays](#)

[Concerts](#)

Visits and Walks

The Craft Workshop Circuit

24 April - 31 July 1999

Lunéville in the Belle Époque

24 April and 2 May 1999

Majorelle and the Governor's Palace

28 April - 21 July 1999

The Meurthe-et-Moselle Chamber of Commerce and Industry

28 April - 31 July 1999

The Trade Union and Community Centre, 1902

1 - 2 May 1999

Visits to *Art nouveau* Gardens

1 May - 14 July 1999

In Emile Gallé's footsteps: on the tops of the Vosges Mountain

15 - 16 May 1999

Art Nouveau Walk

12 September 1999

Celebrations and Entertainment

1900 Evenings at the Excelsior

26 March, 19 June and 29 October 1999

Major Book Fair, Special *Ecole de Nancy* Year Edition

25 April 1999

***Art nouveau* Parade**

30 April 1999

1900 Gourmet Meal

28 May 1999

Celebrating Nature

8 and 9 May 1999

***Déjeuner sur l'herbe*: at France's Table**

16 May 1999

Live Workshop

17 May - 13 June 1999

The *Noctuelles* Stamp

22 - 23 May 1999

The 1900 Garden at Gerbéviller Chateau

4 June 1999

1900 Second-hand Market

20 June 1999

Visit to the Hot Springs at the Round Pool

20 June 1999

***Ecole de Nancy* Grand Prix**

23 June 1999

***Ecole de Nancy* Heritage Night**

18 September 1999

1900 Ball

25 September 1999

Poetry and Theatre**The School of Emile, Victor, Antonin and the others**

26 March 1999

Daum - on flowers and lights

23 June - 4 July 1999

Literary Café: on Poetry in 1900

11 November 1999

Concerts**Homage to the *Ecole de Nancy***

29 March 1999

At the turn of the 19thC

26 April 1999

Homage to Georges Crumb

3, 4 and 6 May 1999

Claude Debussy and Gérard Condé

31 May 1999

Nancy in the *Belle époque*

6 and 20 June 1999

Lorraine Musical Meetings

1, 16, 18 and 31 July 1999

Nancy International Choral Music Festival invited choirs from the Europe's *Art nouveau* capitals:

Escolonia Montserrat (Barcelona), **Polyphonia** (Brussels), **Monteverdi Choir** (Budapest)

12 May, 12 June, 12 September 1999

Results achieved by the *Ecole de Nancy* Year Events

Results achieved

The Events More than a hundred events were organised as part of the *Ecole de Nancy* Year: exhibitions, seminar and series of conferences, organised visits including special access to specific sites, various other activities, concerts, training courses, and summer university courses

Number of visitors to the exhibitions - the three main exhibitions (Poirel Galleries, Fine Arts Museum, *Ecole de Nancy* Museum) attracted 379,400 visitors

- Other events attracted 351,600 visitors

- In all, these events attracted over 750,000 visitors (including more than 20,000 school children).

Activities for schools Some 20,000 school children visited the exhibitions at the Poirel Galleries, the *Ecole de Nancy* Museum and the Fine Arts Museum thanks to the special conditions proposed.

Nancy in *Ecole de Nancy* colours Special signs were put up on *Ecole de Nancy* buildings and in public squares. Flowers in *Ecole de Nancy* colours were planted throughout the city and Greater Nancy.

Communications Poster campaigns, articles in the written press and on radio and TV helped make the events a success. The events were monitored by 650 journalists. More than 1400 articles on the events appeared in the written press, or were presented on radio or TV.

Achievements relating to the Sciences

Better knowledge concerning the *Ecole de Nancy* Research carried out by specialists in the *Ecole de Nancy* (researchers, students and enthusiasts) as part of the events added to our knowledge of the Movement and the period and its place in the history of *Art nouveau* in general.

A year's lasting achievements - Many important works were carried out during the *Ecole de Nancy* Year: the Fine Arts Museum was extended and reopened, the Poirel Galleries and Hall were restored, the *Ecole de Nancy* Museum gardens were completely renovated, its aquarium restored...

- a campaign was undertaken to enhance the view of over 350 *Ecole de Nancy* buildings.

A website set up on the *Ecole de Nancy* Thanks to the setting up of the website www.ecole-de-nancy.com, a large number of internet users were able to access information on the events (15,000 hits per month from January to August 1999, 53% non-French). The site has also become a permanent communications tool on the *Ecole de Nancy* and *Art nouveau*.