

Press Release

The 5th European Night of Museums Saturday 16 May, 2009



The 5th European Night of Museums will take place on Saturday 16 May, 2009. This year, it will gather 39 countries under the aegis of the Council of Europe and of Unesco for the first time.

Over a thousand museums throughout France will offer everyone, especially young audiences, original programming and entertaining events.

Young visitors to the Pompidou Centre will be invited to explore Alexander Calder's art during a workshop in conjunction with Calder's exhibition "*What a circus!*"; a digital fresco, interactive and moving, will gradually invade the facade of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Valenciennes; *Force de l'Art 02*, the second triennial event organised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, showcasing France's diverse contemporary art scene will exceptionally open the doors of the Grand Palais. *Space so Far, so Close*, a special programme proposed by the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, will offer unusual insights on a number of artworks in several museums throughout France.

A blog dedicated to The Night of Museums will allow visitors to share their emotions.

This is but a sample of the many events proposed during a night in which museums will certainly compete with imagination and creativity, this year again

Christine Albanel, French Minister of Culture and Communication, invites the public to come in numbers to discover or rediscover places and artworks on this exceptional occasion.

The European Night of Museums is organised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Direction des Musées de France (DMF) and, in France, by the Directions Régionales des Affaires Culturelles (DRAC) in association with Réunion des musées nationaux (RMN). It is generously sponsored by Neuflyze OBC and Neuflyze Vie.

For a complete programme of the event, please go to www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr as of March 9.

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