



D'OR D'ARGENT DE BRONZE

PRESS RELEASE

En collaboration avec





EXHIBITION

D'OR, D'ARGENT, DE BRONZE

UNE HISTOIRE DE LA MÉDAILLE OLYMPIQUE

FROM MARCH 27 TO SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

In this Olympic year, what could be more natural for Monnaie de Paris than to highlight the great and small history of Olympic medals!

"D'or, d'argent, de bronze. Une histoire de la médaille olympique" offers a fascinating exploration of the history of the Olympic medal, highlighting its evolution through the editions of the modern era Olympic Games.

As part of the preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Monnaie de Paris wanted to highlight the link it nurtures with Olympic history and the creation of medals. This exhibition is a testimony to our Institution's expertise in metal-related arts and crafts.

From Antiquity to the present day, it is the moment of victory and reward that the exhibition recounts through the medal, but also through the objects, images and archives that contextualize it. The supreme momentum that the medal represents has evolved over the course of the Olympic Games. Medals bear witness to the evolution of the Games, the arts and world history.



Gold medal at the Games of the VIII Olympiad, Paris (1924) won by Paavo Nurmi (Finland) Gilded silver - André Rivaud Private collection (Finland) ©Paavo Nurmi Turku



Medal from the Games of the First Olympiad (Athens, 1896) Jules-Clément Chaplain - Bronze Historical collections of the Monnaie de Paris © Monnaie de Paris

WHEN WAS THE FIRST OLYMPIC MEDAL CREATED? WHERE AND BY WHOM WAS IT DESIGNED?

To answer these questions - and many others - the exhibition "D'or, d'argent, de bronze. Une histoire de la médaille olympique" aims to provide answers. Using its own collections, as well as exceptional loans from the Olympic Museum (Lausanne, Suisse) and the National Museum of sport (Nice, France), the exhibition tells the story of one of the world's most coveted awards. Some of the documents will be presented to the French public for the first time. Each in its own way recounts a meeting between history and sport.

You'll be moved by the dies of the first Olympic medal engraved by Chaplain, impressed by the five gold medals won by five-time champion Paavo Nurmi in 1924, astonished by Excoffon's original designs for the 1968 Games, or charmed by Lalique's crystal medals.

The sport itself, however, is not represented on the Olympic medal in favour of timeless allegories and symbols, since it would have been impossible to include all disciplines on a single medal. In addition, a selection of sports medals where artists have been free to express is displayed. A counterpoint, proposed by Béatrice Coullaré, Head of Conservation at Monnaie de Paris, presenting a little-known part of Monnaie de Paris' collection of medals and medallic tools.

This exhibition, which has been awarded the "Cultural Olympiad" label, is organized in partnership with the Olympic Museum and the National Museum of sport.



Plaques commemorating the Games of the Xth Olympiad (Berlin, 1936) after the antique. Cast bronze with patina, Lauchhammer Foundry NN, Historical Collections of the Monnaie de Paris ©Monnaie de Paris



MONNAIE DE PARIS IN THE COLORS OF OLYMPISME

Monnaie de Paris echoes the XXXIII Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris in 2024 through a program of tours and activities that complete the exhibition: guided tours, but also for younger visitors, storytelling tours ("Les Bambins, champions olympiques"), and visit-workshops ("Façonne ton sport" and "Fabrique ta médaille olympique").

In 2021, Monnaie de Paris began a series of collector coins in precious metal, as well as medallions and paperweights celebrating the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

One hundred years after the last edition was held in France, the capital will host the Summer Games in 2024. An opportunity for Monnaie de Paris to celebrate this major event with a program featuring the host country's heritage, but also sport and athletes, as well as ancient sports.

The exhibition will plunge visitors into the world of the Olympic medal, highlighting the iconic role of Monnaie de Paris in the creation and manufacture of these prestigious objects since the first editions of the Olympic Games the modern era.



Jean-Michel Folon, Bronze medal of the 5th Paralympic Winter Games (Tignes-Albertville, 1992)
© Fondation Folon / Adagp, Paris, 2024



Poster To encourage French sport - 1/10th Olympic, 1940 - J. Leclercq, Loterie Nationale
New acquisition, Historical collections of the Monnaie de Paris
© Monnaie de Paris



Roger Excoffon, Bronze medal (slalom) at the Xth Winter Olympic Games (Grenoble, 1968)
© Adagp, Paris, 2024

“ 2024 is the year of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Monnaie de Paris has the great privilege of manufacturing the medals that will be awarded to the athletes. Who better than us could trace the history of these awards, arguably the most coveted in the sporting world? Whether gold, silver or bronze, the Olympic medal is a unique symbol of personal achievement. This exhibition is a unique opportunity to dive into the world of this object that has become synonymous with consecration. ”

Marc Schwartz –
Chairman and CEO of Monnaie de Paris



Bronze medal of the Games of the VIII Olympiad Paris 1924 - obverse
André Rivaud - Bronze
Historical collections of the Monnaie de Paris
© Monnaie de Paris

CURATOR OF THE EXHIBITION



Dominique Antérieur

Dominique Antérieur is in charge of the historical collections and the Medaillier de la Monnaie de Paris. He regularly highlights the collections through exhibitions and publications produced in-house or in collaboration with other institutions. Curious by nature, he doesn't hesitate to step outside his usual monetary field to share with us the great and small history of the Olympic medal.

“Who among us knows what an Olympic medal looks like ? The top athletes know. They've sacrificed everything for it ! The exhibition invites us to enter into this intimate relationship between man and object.”






Dominique Antérieur, exhibition curator

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Nocturne every Wednesday until 9pm.
11 Quai de Conti, 75006 Paris

Store
Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 7pm.
Nocturne every Wednesday until 9pm.
2 rue Guénégaud, 75006 Paris
Online ticketing at monnaiedeparis.fr

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ABOUT MONNAIE DE PARIS

Since 864, Monnaie de Paris has been pursuing its original mission: minting coins for the State. It is the oldest French institution and one of the oldest companies in the world. On its historic site in the heart of Paris, behind the doors of an 18th century palace, Monnaie de Paris houses the capital's last working factory, supporting arts and crafts through the production of exceptional products (medals, coins, decorations, objets d'art). Since 2017, Monnaie de Paris has widely opened its doors to the public with a new museum offering views of its production workshops and working art foundry. Through a didactic, fun and interactive tour, the desire to let everyone discover the history and manufacture of coins and medals. Monnaie de Paris is developing a cultural program in line with its identity and industrial activity, with a view to promoting its historical heritage as well as its know-how and crafts. This unique identity and exceptional heritage make Monnaie de Paris a key cultural player. Monnaie de Paris is also based in Pessac (Gironde), where high-level industrial expertise is applied to the production of current and foreign coins, as well as collector's items.