

PRESS RELEASE

STORMS AND SHIPWRECKS

From Vernet to Courbet

MUSÉE DE LA VIE
ROMANTIQUE

FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2020,
TO MARCH 14, 2021

INFORMATION
museevieromantique.paris.fr

PRESS PREVIEW : TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 > 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Paul Huet (1803-1869), *Breakers at Pointe de Granville* (Manche), ca. 1852, oil on canvas, 68 x 103 cm. Louvre Museum, Painting Department, Paris, France. Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Louvre Museum)



Eugène Boudin (1824-1898), *Squall*, 1886, oil on canvas, 117 x 160 x 3 cm, Morlaix Museum © Morlaix Museum, Museum of France

The musée de la Vie romantique invites visitors to discover an emblematic and fascinating theme from the first half of the nineteenth century and one of the most powerful sources of inspiration for the Romantics: storms and shipwrecks. This exhibition aims to broaden the museum's program beyond the collections focusing on life in the Parisian salons by exploring the pictorial diversity of Romanticism and putting a spotlight on the new way of looking at nature and seascapes as a reflection of the Romantic soul.

Through a selection of some sixty works—paintings, drawings, prints and manuscripts—from more than thirty artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, this exhibition embarks visitors on a vividly illustrated voyage through maritime storms, from the fury of the elements to the often dramatic consequences of shipwrecks and loss before the return to calm on sea and land.

The excessiveness and violence of the sea echoes the interior torment of artists, who seize the motifs of gusts of wind, threatening clouds, waves breaking on reefs, ships in peril and people in danger to create sublime and dramatic compositions. This true spectacle of unchained elements also reveals a palette of exacerbated feelings, such as terror, bravery or admiration for the force and beauty of nature.

Following an original scenography, the presentation is organized in three parts: *The sources for representing storms – The spectacle of a storm on the high seas, at the core of Romanticism – After the storm: wrecks and survivors*. In resonance with the paintings and drawings by Joseph Vernet, Théodore Géricault, Théodore Gudin, Eugène Isabey, Eugène Boudin and Gustave Courbet are the stormy writings of Denis Diderot, Henri Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, Alphonse de Lamartine, Victor Hugo and Jules Michelet, as well as the musical creations of Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Liszt and Richard Wagner.

Echoing the works presented, a selection of literary texts read by Guillaume Gallienne from the Comédie-Française and a soundtrack designed by the Médiathèque Musicale de Paris round out the presentation. This exhibition is also accompanied by an extensive cultural program, activities and mediation schemes, such as the narration of an olfactory voyage, a children circuit, guided tours and themed workshops that will invite the musée de la Vie romantique audience to explore these imaginary representations of storms that are both terrifying and sublime.

Curator

Gaëlle Rio, Director, Musée de la Vie romantique

#TempetesEtNaufrages

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Open daily except Mondays and holidays,
Full rate €9 / Reduced rate €7
Free of charge for the permanent collections

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