

Cantonal Museums of the Valais January – June 2017



Cathedral Treasures Exhibition 25 March – 10 Sept.

Artistic masterpieces of great value for our cultural heritage: the pieces entrusted by the Diocese and Cathedral Chapter of Sion to the History Museum represent a veritable Treasure, which the museum would like to share with the public before integrating it into its permanent collection. For several months the exhibition centre Le Pénitencier will display such unique pieces as the Carolingian reliquary from Althée (ca. 800) and the great shrine from the Sion Cathedral (mid-11th cent.).



Le Pénitencier
Exhibition Centre of the Cantonal Museums
Rue des châteaux 24 – 1950 Sion
Tue. – Sun.: 11:00 – 17:00 (18:00 from June to September)
www.musees-valais.ch

Exhibitions
Events
Tours



The exhibition, which marks a major step in institutional collaboration between the Church and cantonal museums will re-place these objects made of gold, silver and ivory in their original ritual function. How do we view the sacred quality of these objects today?

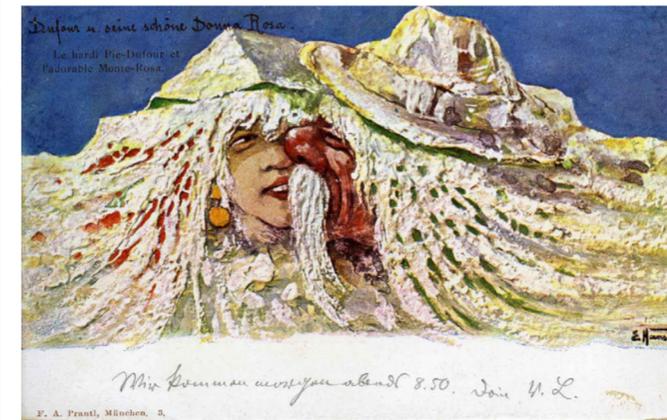
Opening:
24 March at 18:00

Free guided tours:
2 April, 7 May

Nolde/Huber: Exhibition In the name of a mountain until 16 April

The newly-created exhibition space “Au Quatrième” presents a dialogue between the newly-acquired famous series of mountain caricatures by Emil Nolde (1867-1956) and a video installation by Sasha Huber (b. 1975). Separated by a time-span of more than a century, the German Expressionist painter and the Haitian-Swiss artist share a common interest in the names given to the mountain summits of the Alps: whether they are associated with local folklore or famous persons, the mountains can take on a burlesque aspect here, problematic features there.

Starting 21 May:
Installation by Tarik Hayward:
Le Rhône et les Rêves.



Valais Art Museum
Place de la Majorie – 1950 Sion
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Prolongation

Target Earth: Living the Anthropocene

Awarded the Prix Expo 2016 by the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences, the exhibition has been prolonged to run until 2 April 2017

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Free guided tours:
8 January, 5 March, 2 April
Premiere of the web documentary of the exhibition:
9 March
www.musees-valais.ch

The fragile world of the wild bee

Exhibition until 23 April 2017

Valais Nature Museum
Rue des Châteaux 12, 1950 Sion
Tue. – Sun.: 11:00 – 17:00

Coming soon!



En Marche (Let's Walk)

Climbing a mountain, transgressing borders, or marching in a demonstration: the exhibition *En Marche* will approach this topic through the idea of the involvement of mind and body, bringing art in dialogue with other disciplines.

En Marche
an exhibition of the Valais Art Museum
from 3 June 2017 to 7 January 2018
Le Pénitencier
Exhibition Centre of the Cantonal Museums
Rue des châteaux 24 – 1950 Sion
Tue. – Sun.: 11:00 – 18:00
(17:00 from October to January)
Details at www.musees-valais.ch



Events

Every 1st Sunday of the month, the cantonal museums offer special activities free of charge:

Sunday 5 March
at the History Museum

To arms!

A family workshop followed by a lecture about medieval weapons under the direction of Fabian Brenker. The museum's famous crossbow loaders and other deadly instruments will be explained in detail. This event is organized in collaboration with the Archaeological Association of the Valais (AVA-WAG).

Sunday 2 April
at the Art Museum

Devouring the landscape

A Sunday to (re)discover the new presentation of the museum's collections, with workshops for young and old, a creative brunch with the Friends of the Museum (AMAV) and detailed explanations in the presence of the artist Catherine Contour and the historian Michael Jakob.

Sunday 21 May

Festival of Castles and Museums

A festive day, free of charge, dedicated to families, offered by the partners of the sites of Valera and Tourbillon and the Cantonal Museums to launch the cultural season and celebrate International Museum Day!

Are you on holiday?

Come to the museums and have fun: you will learn many fascinating things!

2 March: Stupid Ways to Die, at the History Museum, 14:00-16:00

3 March: Bzzz... at the Nature Museum, 14:00-16:00

14 April: Mountain, show your face! at the Art Museum, 9:30-11:30

20 April: To arms!, at the History Museum, 14:00-16:00

21 April: Fossils in my garden, at the Nature Museum, 14:00-16:00



For details see
www.musees-valais.ch

How to find us?



The three museums, the Valera Basilica and its Treasure, and Le Pénitencier are all located in the high old town of Sion (accessible from May to September with the tourist train *Le P'tit Sédunois*).



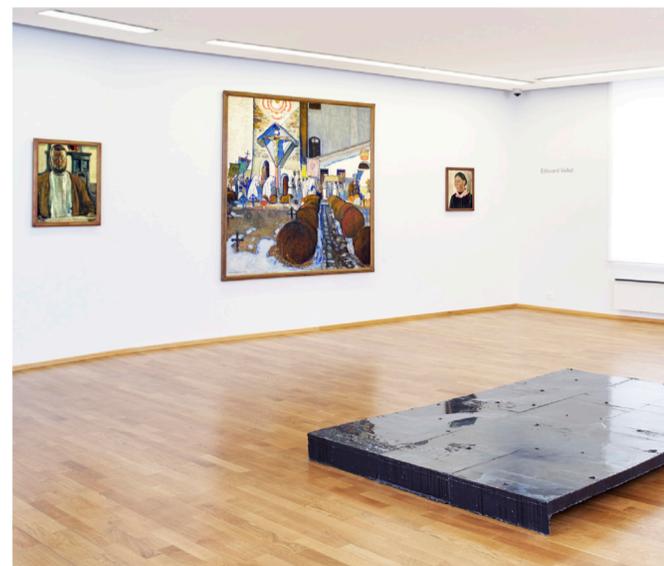
For more information:
www.musees-valais.ch
You will also find the Valais Cantonal Museums on Facebook!

Picture credits: Cantonal Museum of the Valais, Sion; H. Preisig, G. Collignon, D. Emery, J.-A. Margelisch, Studio Bonnardot, M. Martinez & B. Dubuis; p. 1, Mitre of Josse de Silenen (late 15th cent.); p. 2, Reliquary of Althéa (ca. 800); p. 3, E. Noide, *The Bold Pic Dufour and the Adorable Monte-Rosa*, 1897; p. 4, V. Carron, Gérard, 2016.



Valais Art Museum

Centred on the history of landscape, the School of Savlèse and contemporary art, the collection of the Valais Art Museum can be explored thanks to an original thematic tour that includes many artists (Ritz, Biéler, Burnat-Provins, Vallet, Duarte, Carron). You will discover works in dialogue with the Sublime in the Alps, the paradise lost of the Belle Époque, the forces of nature, or the climatic issues of the 21st century. Also on view are temporary exhibitions at the new spaces “Au Quatrième” and “Le Créneau”, a tour for children, and all this in strolling through medieval castles and on their picturesque terraces.



Place de la Majorie – Sion
Tue. – Sun. 11:00 – 17:00 (18:00 from June to September)
www.musees-valais.ch

Looking at landscape New presentation!

Guided tours and activities free of charge:
on the first Sunday of the month: 8 January, 5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June.

Designed for blind visitors or those with impaired sight, the Touch & See system has been adapted to the new tour and includes workshops focused on a work or a theme.

Valais Nature Museum

Man and Nature



Thanks to its original approach, the Valais Nature Museum is a surprise and treat for young and old. Gone are the stuffed animals neatly presented in display cases, today the exhibits address the eye and the senses, with the various natural environments of the Valais serving as background. The tour begins in total immersion, at eye-level with the animals that inhabit the forest, as real as life. From room to room, the exhibits demonstrate the changing interaction between humans and their environment, from the earliest times down to the present day.

Rue des Châteaux 12 – Sion
Tue. – Sun. 11:00 – 17:00
(18:00 from June to September)
www.musees-valais.ch

Valais History Museum

50,000 years of history

Housed at the heart of an internationally-known monument, the Valais History Museum invites you to travel 50,000 years into the past. The visit takes you through the refurbished quarters of the Church canons and shows how the canton was constituted over the centuries. The History Museum also preserves treasures that are unique in the world and bear witness to the daily lives of the people of the Valais: bronze jewels of the Rhone culture, medieval liturgical chests, uniforms of the Swiss mercenary regiments, etc. For families, there are special interactive tours that permit these treasures to be discovered with a playful approach.

Guided tours free of charge:
on the first Sunday of the month at 14:30

The Steles of Petit-Chasseur
These anthropomorphic steles discovered in Sion are unique examples of Neolithic art and prehistoric culture in the Alps. Discover these gems at Le Pénitencier during temporary exhibitions.



Château de Valère – Sion
October – May: 11:00 – 17:00 (closed at Monday)
June – September: every day 11:00 – 18:00
www.musees-valais.ch

The Valera Basilica and its Treasure



The site of Valera combines an exceptional landscape and religious heritage. Together with an expert guide of the History Museum you will discover the Romanesque-Gothic choir of the Basilica, the carved Baroque stalls, and the oldest church organ in the world that is still being played.

The guide will also take you to the Basilica Treasure, which has recently been put on display in the former Hall of Archives. This Treasure features some extremely rare pieces. You will be able to admire precious Byzantine textiles, Oriental carpets, Medieval chests, and the splendid carved and painted decoration of the Chapel of Guillaume de Rarogne. With its original presentation, this precious heritage bears witness to nearly 1,000 years of continual occupation of the site by the Sion Cathedral Chapter.

Guided tours:
October to May, Sunday at 14:00 and 16:00
From June to September: Monday-Saturday at 11:00, 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00, Sunday at 14:00 and 16:00.

Guided tours free of charge:
on the first Sunday of the month at 14:00 and 16:00

Time for a snack?
The Valera Cafeteria and its terrace are at your service during the opening hours of the History Museum.