

Cantonal Museums of the Valais

June—Dec. 2017



Walking: Take a step, take a stand

Walking, an everyday means of locomotion, allows us to reach summits and explore the world. It is essential to freedom and has become a means of mobilization to claim civil rights. Starting in the 1960s, it became a mode of artistic expression. In addition to a special work by the British artist Hamish Fulton, the exhibition features works by Francis Alÿs, Martina Gmür, Fischli & Weiss, Douglas Gordon, Richard Long and Not Vital. From the footprint, the trespassing of borders and mountain climbing to political marches, walking is presented in terms of the involvement of the body and the mind: taking a step means making a decision!



Le Pénitencier
Exhibition Centre of the Cantonal Museums
Rue des châteaux 24, 1950 Sion
Tue.—Sun.: 11:00—18:00 (17:00 Oct.—Jan.)
Closing at 16:00 on 24 and 31 December
closed on 25 December and 1st January
www.musees-valais.ch

Exhibitions
Events
Tours



Exhibition 3 June — 7 Jan. 2018

Saturday 3 June at 15:00:
walk with Hamish Fulton,
departure Pl. de la Majorie.

Sunday 11 June, 13 August
and 8 October at 15:00:
Land art walk

With the support of the:
Ville de Sion
Loterie romande
CarPostal



Moths

You see them sometimes flitting around street lamps: moths are nocturnal butterflies. They are discreet and little known, and certainly worth the monograph that has been published thanks to the assistance of the Valais Nature Museum. It is the product of a major research effort and describes the 600 species of moths in Switzerland. Many passionate naturalists participated in this project to study, identify and draw these en-dearing butterflies.



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Exhibition 14 Oct. — 7 Jan. 2018

The exhibition reveals the richness of their world and shows the importance of such a book for the protection of the environment. The original plates drawn by Hans-Peter Wymann to illustrate the monograph, which form the basis for the presentation, have become part of the museum's collection.

Opening:
on 13 October at 18:00,
followed by a demonstration
of night hunting.



Exhibitions

Cathedral Treasures

Until 10 September

The exhibition presents some thirty masterpieces of religious art from the collections of the Diocese and the Chapter of the Sion Cathedral. It investigates their value and function over the centuries.

Le Pénitencier
Rue des châteaux 24, 1950 Sion
Tue.—Sun.: 11:00—18:00



Le Rhône et les Rêves

Until 22 October

The exhibition shows photographs from the Rhodanie series of Bertrand Stoffeth, acquired by the Art Museum, in addition to signed works by Ritz, Olsommer, Vallotton and Poincheval.

Starting in August the exhibition will run in conjunction with the Triennale of Contemporary Art Valais/Wallis 2017.

Valais Art Museum
Au Quatrième
Place de la Majorie, 1950 Sion
Tue.—Sun. 11:00—18:00 (17:00 in October)



Eric Philippoz

The winner of the Manor Cultural Prize Sion 2017, Eric Philippoz will be given the run of the Art Museum. This artist is known for his work on the legacy of personal histories and the use of mixed media (video, installation, performance, drawing, etc.).

Vernissage:
on 24 November at 18:00

Valais Art Museum
Place de la Majorie, 1950 Sion
Tue.—Sun.: 11:00—17:00

Events

Every first Sunday of the month, the cantonal Museums offer interesting activities free of charge. For example:

6 August

At the Nature Museum

Fossils in my garden

The oldest fossil tree in Switzerland will soon enter the collections of the Nature Museum. Before going to admire it, come and participate in a new family workshop that will let you to discover the fascinating world of fossils.

21—22 July

at the Art Museum

PALP festival

2 evenings of concerts at the Museum, featuring a special children's workshop with the artist Oÿ, 22 July at 16:00.

9—10 Sept.

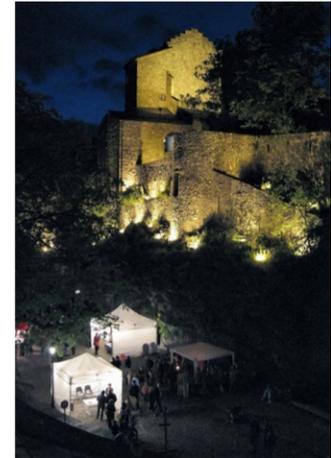
European Heritage Days

Devoted to the theme of "Honour to Power", there will be guided tours of the Valera site, and a special combined tour of the exhibition "Treasures of the Cathedral" and the Bishop's Palace!

11 November

Night of the Museums

Get off the couch and out of the house to (re)discover the Museums in a magic nocturnal atmosphere with an original programme for young and old.



Are you on holiday?

Come and have fun at the Museums, you'll learn some exciting things!
27 October: Walking, at the Pénitencier, 14:00-16:00, 8-12 years
2 November: Hold your horses... at the History Museum, 14:00-16:00, 8-12 years
3 November: Things creeping in the night! at the Nature Museum, 14:00-16:00, 7-11 years
28 December: Christmas Fantasy, at the History Museum, 14:00-16:00, 8-12 years

More information at
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 Museums of the Valais, Sion: A. Wetter, B. Geraerts, F. Lambiel, M. Martinez, M. Pozzi-Escot, P.-A. Margelisch, G. Collignon, D. Emery, Studio Bonnardot, Martinez & Dubuis; p.1 V. Carron, Gérard, 2016; p.2 Gvan der Werve, *Nummer acht, everything is going to be alright*, 2007; p.3 Moths, drawing by H.-P. Wyman; p.4 14th-century Kisses of Peace, silver and Ivory + F. Vallotton, *Glacier du Rhône*, 1892. Graphic design: L. Gagliardi — Translation: J.-M. Clarke — Printer: Imprimerie VB, Sion.



Valais Art Museum

Devoted to the history of landscape, the School of Savièse and contemporary art, the collection of the Valais Art Museum is presented according to a new original theme 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 lost paradise of the Belle Époque, the forces of nature, and the climatic issues of the 21st century. Also on view are temporary exhibitions in the newly-created gallery spaces «Au Quatrième» and «Le Créneau», and there is a tour for children — all of this while strolling through medieval castles and on their picturesque terraces.



Place de la Majorie — Sion
Tue. — Sun.: 11:00 — 18:00 (17:00 from Oct.–May)
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Looking at landscape

Free guided tours and activities on the first Sunday of month.

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

Valais Nature Museum



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

Rue des Châteaux 12 — Sion
Tue. — Sun.: 11:00 — 18:00 (17:00 Oct.–May)
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Man and Nature

our relationship with nature. The barriers between the visitor and the animals, which are non-existent in the first rooms, become increasingly apparent, symbolizing the growing distance between human beings and their environment.

Free guided tours and activities on the first Sunday of the month.

Valais History Museum

Located at the heart of an internationally famous monument, the Valais History Museum invites you to travel 50,000 years into the past. The visit takes you through the remodelled residences of the Church canons and shows how the canton was constituted over the centuries. The History Museum also preserves valuable pieces that are unique in the world and illustrate 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, we offer special interactive tours that enable you to discover these treasures with a playful approach.



Château de Valère — Sion
From June to September: daily 11:00 — 18:00
October — May: 11:00 — 17:00 (closed Mondays)
Closes at 16:00 on 24 and 31 December
Closed on 25 December and 1st January
www.musees-valais.ch

50,000 years of history

Free guided tours and activities on the first Sunday of the month.

The Steles from Le Petit-Chasseur
Discovered in Sion, these anthropomorphic steles are unique examples of Neolithic art and prehistoric culture in the Alps. These masterpieces of stone carving are on display at Le Pénitencier during temporary exhibitions.

The Valera Basilica and its Treasure



The site of Valera combines an impressive landscape and a long religious heritage. Accompanied by a trained guide of the History Museum you will discover the oldest church organ in the world still in working condition and 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 continuous occupation of the site by the Sion Cathedral Chapter.

Guided tours:
June — September:
Mon. — Sat. at 11:00, 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00; Sundays at 14:00 and 16:00
October — May:
Sundays at 14:00 and 16:00

NOTICE: from June 2017 to June 2019, due to major restoration work in the choir, only the nave of the Valera Basilica will be open to the public. A year-round programme of guided tours will be available to permit visitors to understand the work of the restorers and the need to preserve this valuable heritage.
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Time for a snack?
The Valera Cafeteria and its terrace are at your service during the opening hours of the History Museum.