



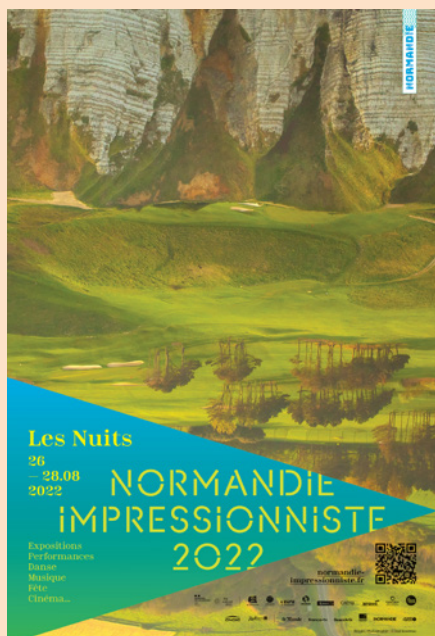
2024,
a unique event
to celebrate
Impressionism's
150th
anniversary
in France

Festival

NORMANDIE
IMPRESSIONNISTE
2024

22 March
– 22 September
2024

The 5th edition



► The Festival

In just 12 years, the Normandie Impressionniste Festival has attained a prominent position in the French cultural landscape, with over one million visitors to each edition. By engaging an entire region, this festival stands out from the other main art events in France. Its other original point is to base its artistic rigour on the energies that constitute its territory, with projects coming essentially from Normandy's cultural players.

The festival invites artists and the public to update their relationship with the famous 19th-century movement that brought about a genuine artistic revolution, which still rings out today. This contemporary resonance will take on an even greater importance in the 2024 edition, which will celebrate yesterday's and today's spirit of invention. Normandie Impressionniste also provides the chance to travel across the entirety of Normandy, thanks to its artistic and creative sites.

With an artistic rigour running across all disciplines, the festival offers unique and festive moments, which are as ambitious as they are accessible. The occupation of public spaces, well-known and little-known sites of Normandy's historic and industrial heritage, natural environments, or sports centres, forges the festival's potent identity. Beyond the festival, different opportunities are offered to discover Impressionism in Normandy. To find out more : voyagesimpressionnistes.com/en.

► The 5th edition: a highly expected event

The next edition of Normandie Impressionniste will take place from 22 March to 22 September 2024. This 5th edition will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Impressionist exhibition.

The journey proposed by the festival will seek to show how this artistic movement was born. What were the various events in these artists' histories and lives which led to the genesis of modernity's founding moment? The role of the Norman landscape in Monet's apprenticeship as a painter, modern life and the industrial revolution as a fresh inspiration, the importance of light, the role of photography and then of cinema, a vital openness to the world (Monet's and Pissarro's trips to London, Japonism, early commercial successes in New York...).

The festival will include a number of major exhibitions throughout its duration and will also be marked by key moments, highlighting other disciplines (dance, music, theatre, opera, cinema, circus...).



Poster of the 2022 edition of the festival, photograph by Paul Rousteau.
Claude Monet, *The Manneporte* (Étretat), 1885, musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen.

Whistler James Abbott McNeill, *Arrangement in Grey and Black n°1 or Portrait of the Artist's Mother* (1804-1881) 1871, Paris, musée d'Orsay.
Photograph © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / Jean Schormans
Bob Wilson's photograph: © Lucie Jansch

► Two legendary American artists



James Abbott McNeill Whistler *The Butterfly Effect*

The painting of the American artist Whistler (1834-1903), who was a contemporary of the nebula of impressionist painters, provides a stylistic counterpoint while also sharing with them a deep feeling of rupture, opening the way to a painting which was independent, liberated and self-reflexive. For the Normandie Impressionniste 2024 Festival, the Musée des Beaux-Arts of Rouen has decided to broaden its focus and sidestep, by presenting the figure of Whistler and the deep, lasting fascination he exercised from 1874 to 1914 in France and, more generally, across Europe.

The aura of Whistler's painting comes from its singular style, its grace and mystery, as well as the range of sensations that it inspires, in particular when associated with literature and music. But it also comes from this dandy painter's outlandish personality, which sparked off uproars and scandals, and was the source of an attraction shown by so many artists, which broadened even further his renown, as well as by art critics and by such writers as Huysmans and Proust.

In the exhibition *James Abbott McNeill Whistler, the Butterfly Effect*, the Musée des Beaux-Arts of Rouen's ambition is to bring together a large number of this American artist's works, as well as major pieces by painters who were infused by the master's spirit, in areas that will be dealt with room by room: the sensitive confrontation generated by human-scale portraiture, nocturnal landscapes, the imperceptible and the evanescent, Japonism, the revelation of Vélasquez's painting, etc.



Robert Wilson *Cathedral of Light*

Every summer, the "Cathedral of Light" event enchants the City of Rouen's inhabitants and visitors, with each year an audience of over 100,000 attending this sound and light show for families, on the façade of Rouen's legendary cathedral.

At the Normandie Impressionniste 2024 Festival, this show will for the first time be entrusted to one of our era's greatest multidisciplinary and avant-garde artists, the American Robert Wilson, or Bob Wilson. As a stage director and visual artist, Bob Wilson is a poet of light.

At the end of the 1960s, Bob Wilson became known as one of the leading figures in New York's contemporary theatre scene. Today, he can be found on the entire world's operatic and theatrical stages. He has worked with such varied artists as Philip Glass, Isabelle Huppert, Marina Abramović, Michel Piccoli or Willem Dafoe...

His inimitable and instantly recognisable style will surely mark the history of video-projections on historical buildings and be a key moment in the Normandie Impressionniste Festival. This historic collaboration promises a new, unexpected experience, as "universally accessible" as it will be sophisticated. In counterpoint with the Whistler exhibition, a major tale of American creation in France will be narrated by the Festival in 2024.

► The Festival in numbers

► 9 founder members:

The Normandy Region, the Rouen Normandy Metropolis, the *Départements* of Eure and Seine-Maritime, the City of Rouen, the City of Caen, the Caen La Mer Urban Community, the City of Le Havre and the Le Havre Seine Metropolis.

► 26 associated towns.

► Over 200 events in 2020, from major historical and contemporary exhibitions to participatory and festive events, without forgetting spectacular installations in public spaces.

► 1 million visits in 2020.

► 20 million euros' financial fallout in Normandy, as evaluated during the 2020 edition of the festival.

► Normandy's main cultural event and a vector of attraction.

► A responsible approach: the encouragement of eco-mobility, an intense promotion of cultural rights at every level of the territory, and the development of rich educational contents.

► A vast variety of high-quality touristic offers on the festival's theme, presented by the entirety of Normandy's tourist boards.

► A few highlights from the Festival's history

► The bringing together of eleven of Monet's Cathedrals at the Musée des Beaux-Arts of Rouen in 2010

► The exhibition *Dazzling Reflections, 100 Impressionist Masterpieces* at the Musée des Beaux-Arts of Rouen in 2013

► The exhibition *Ardent Cities. Art, Work, Revolt (1870-1914)* at the Musée des Beaux-Arts of Caen in 2020

► Joanie Lemerrier's piece *Constellations* at Le Havre for Les Nuits Normandie Impressionniste 2022

► The musician/acrobats of the In Fine company on the Abbey of Jumièges at sunrise during the Nuits Normandie Impressionniste 2022.

The exhibitions in the framework of Normandie Impressionniste regularly benefit from the generous support from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the National Gallery of Art, Washington, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Art Institute, Chicago, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Philadelphia Museum of Art...



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