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A long-standing mutual fascination unites Japan and France, through the culture, history, and affinities of their peoples, their exceptional wealth of expertise, and today in their shared passion for illustration and animated film.

The Cité internationale de la tapisserie in Aubusson, in the heart of France, is the custodian of an exceptional savoir-faire listed by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and has embarked on an ambitious project to create a tapestry collection dedicated to the work of great Japanese creator Hayao Miyazaki. This tapestry project, *The imaginary world of Hayao Miyazak*i in Aubusson Tapestry, was launched in partnership with the prestigious Studio Ghibli.

The Cité internationale de la tapisserie, public establishment¹, wanted this collective adventure to be rooted in the cultural and artistic history that unites the two countries, as well as the history and savoir-faire of Aubusson tapestry. These original works, part of a new vision of the art of tapestry, have inter-generational appeal and will travel across the world, starting with Japan.

The tombée de métier which revealed the Princess Mononoke tapestry on March 25, 2022 was a major event, covered by several French and Japanese TV channels. A livestream on YouTube, with a large following in both France and Japan, made this the most widely-publicised tombée de métier in the history of Aubusson tapestry. The adaptation of Hayao Miyazaki's work in tapestry form has proved to be a resounding success, particularly in its use of light. Three tombées de métier followed in the first half of 2023, and the final two works, *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*, are expected to follow in 2026.

This collective endeavour to interpret the images from Hayao Miyazaki's brilliant work using the expertise of Aubusson tapestry will result in the creation of a magnificent woven collection of over 140m2. It will undoubtedly spark encounters and joint projects between creators from both countries around the images and imagination of our time expressed in woven form.

In 2024, *Howl's Moving Castle* at Sunset was presented at Hiroshima Prefectural Museum, the first tapestry from the collection to be put on display in Japan. In 2025, Chihiro presented to *No Face*, based on an image from the film Spirited Away, will be on loan to Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art in Nagoya, while the *Princess Mononoke* tapestry will be on show in the entry hall of the French Pavilion at World Expo OSAKA 2025, where millions of visitors will see the result of this uniquely original cultural and artistic collaboration between France and Japan.

Emmanuel Gérard

Director of the Cité internationale de la tapisserie à Aubusson

¹A local public institution formed from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council, the Creuse Départemental Council and the Creuse Grand Sud Community of Municipalities, with significant backing from the French State and the European Union through the ERDF. The Cité internationale de la tapisserie is chaired by Valérie Simonet, President of the Creuse Départemental Council.

A new adventure for Aubusson tapestry

The Cité internationale de la tapisserie has signed an agreement with Studio Ghibli Inc. for the production of a series of monumental Aubusson tapestries taken from major films by master of Japanese animation Hayao Miyazaki.

The Cité internationale de la tapisserie in Aubusson, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, preserves and promotes the craftsmanship of Aubusson tapestry, listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2009.

For over 10 years, the Cité internationale de la tapisserie has been committed to promoting world-famous French savoir-faire through four main missions: preserving and disseminating a reference collection with a «Musée de France» label; ensuring the longterm preservation of the entire production chain, with a focus on training (setting up a Brevet des Métiers d'Art (craftsmanship qualification) with the GRETA (adult education centre) in the Limousin region); implementing an ambitious policy to create a contemporary collection; developing the tapestry/woven art/ design and textile economy in the Aubusson-Felletin region around these unique skills.

In 2017, a first large wall hanging was launched by the Cité: Aubusson weaves Tolkien. The Cité has now reached is aim with the creation of a wall hanging of 14 tapestries and 2 carpets based on J.R.R. Tolkien's original illustrations. The first pieces were displayed at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) in 2019-2020 as part of its large-scale Tolkien exhibition. The entire collection was exhibited in the summer of 2024 in Aubusson, and was so successful that it became the most visited summer exhibition since the Cité opened its doors.

Building on this success, in July 2019 an agreement was signed with Studio Ghibli to produce a tapestry collection inspired by the animated films of Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki. The operation, titled *The Imagination of Hayao Miyazaki* captured in Aubusson Tapestry, consists of creating six tapestries based on film stills selected by the Cité's technical team and approved by Studio Ghibli.

The Cité internationale de la tapisserie has adopted a policy designed to appeal to a broad public through a new approach to visitor engagement, which lets the public see behind the scenes of a major heritage project. This policy of creating large-scale tapestry collections is also an opportunity to champion the institution's ability to produce ambitious contemporary works using this exceptional expertise.

The project has received a great deal of media attention and has been covered by Japanese public service broadcaster NHK, with reports and documentaries on transposing Hayao Miyazaki's work into Aubusson tapestry.

Reconnecting with the tradition of des grandes tentures

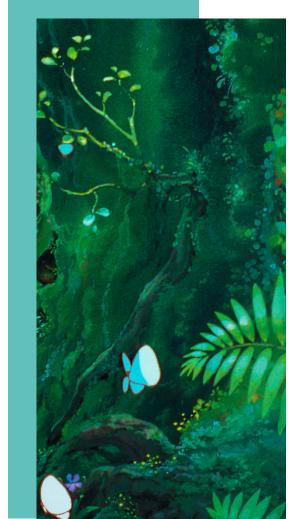
The Cité de la tapisserie's large-scale tapestry projects reflect its desire to invite the public to directly experience the making of these monumental tapestries.

These ensembles continue the tradition of the large-scale narrative wall hangings (series of tapestries illustrating episodes in a story) of the 17th and 18th centuries, created in reference to great literary texts (such as *Homer's Odyssey* and Renaud and Armide's story from Torquato Tasso's *Jerusalem* Delivered). The direct connection between tapestry and storytelling seems to have been lost as early as the 19th century.

This new weaving project *The imaginary world of Hayao Miyazaki* in Aubusson Tapestry sets out to transpose the world of the renowned animated film director into a large six-piece tapestry collection. Projects such as this - the recreation an animated world in tapestry form - are extremely rare.

It is with the greatest respect for the original works that the Cité de la tapisserie is undertaking this crossover heritage project between Aubusson tapestry, which is recognized by UNESCO, and Hayao Miyazaki's visual work. The monumental format of this tapestry collection is a unique invitation to step into Hayao Miyazaki's creations. Tapestries are made to last. Like Charles Le Brun's L'Histoire d'Alexandre (18th century) or L'Odyssée d'Ulysse (17th century) by Isaac Moillon, Hayao Miyazaki's narrative, scenographic, and visual universe, along with his films, will stand the test of time.





Chosen pieces, taken from major films produced by Studio Ghibli



Ashitaka and Yakul in the Forest, Tapestry measuring 5 x 4.60m @ 1997 Studio Ghibli-ND

Princesse Mononoke, 1997

Start of weaving: March 2021

« Cutting from the loom » ceremony : 25 march 2022

Description of the scene:

A wild boar possessed by a demon has wounded the young warrior Ashitaka in the arm. Smitten by the curse in his turn, he will die if he does not succeed in finding a way of undoing the spell. Accompanied by his loyal red elk Yakul, he travels eastwards in the hope of overcoming the threat that weighs upon him and the country. Ashitaka takes shelter in a cedar forest and soothes his arm under cold water.



Chihiro Presented to No-Face, Tapestry measuring 3 x 7.50m © 2001 Studio Ghibli-NDDTM

Spirited away, 2001

Start of weaving : January 2022

« Cutting from the loom » ceremony: january 20, 2023

Description of the scene:

No-Face helps Chihiro in her quest to find her parents, who have been turned into pigs, but he becomes greedy and huge. He lays waste to the banquet, demanding the little girl come with him. She is going to make him swallow a dumpling made from medicinal plants given to her by the River Spirit, which will make No-Face vomit and regurgitate all the beings he has devoured.



The Moving Castle at Sunset, Tapestry measuring 5 x 5m © 2004 Studio Ghibli-NDDMT

Howl's Moving Castle, 2004

Start of weaving : June2022 **« Cutting from the loom » ceremony :** april 21, 2023

Description of the scene

Sophie, an 18-year-old girl, has just been turned into an old woman by the Witch of the Waste. She flees from the town and meets a scarecrow with a turnip for a head, who shows her the way to the Moving Castle where Howl lives, a mysterious handsome young wizard.



Old Sophie at Howl's Bedside, Tapestry measuring 3 x 5.60m. © 2004 Studio Ghibli-NDDMT

Howl's Moving Castle, 2004

Start of weaving: June 2022

 $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{w}}$ Cutting from the loom » ceremony : june 16, 2023

Description of the scene

The wizard Howl, transformed into a bird, comes home exhausted after a fight. To make matters worse, Sophie has got all his possessions mixed up while tidying the castle, and due to her, his blond hair has turned black. Howl sinks into depression. Sophie is at his bedside. Howl tells her of his fear and his failure to meet his wizard's responsibilities in the war the king is waging against another country. He asks her to go to the Royal Witch, Madame Suliman, and pass herself off as his mother, in order to announce his refusal to fight.



Mei's and Totoro's Sleep, Aubusson low-pile carpet project, 7.36 m \times 4.3m \odot 1988 Hayao Miyazaki/Studio Ghibli

My Neighbour Totoro,1988

Start of weaving: early 2025

« Cutting from the loom » ceremony: summer 2026

Description of the scene:

Following a strange little creature through a tunnel in her garden, Mei escapes her father's supervision and falls into an underground cave. She comes across a sleeping Totoro, the giant forest guardian, and joins him for a nap in his den surrounded by lush vegetation.



The Secret of the Fukai, Tapestry measuring $6.5 \times 3.5 \mathrm{m}$ © 1984 Studio Ghibli-H

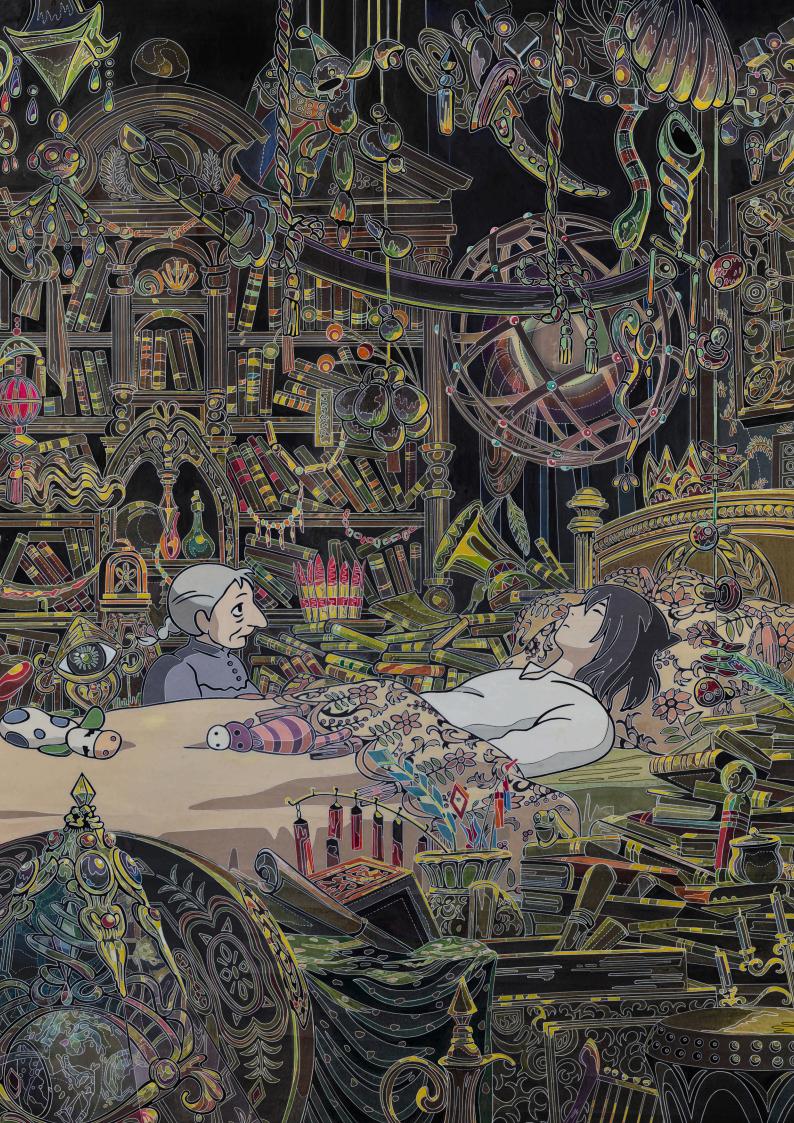
Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind, 1984

Star of weaving: tbd

« Cutting from the loom » ceremony: tbd

Description of the scene

Hunted by the Tolmekian Empire, Asbel and Nausicaä have fallen beneath the Fukai, a vast toxic forest, where they make a discovery. Underground, fossilized trees are purifying the soil and water that was poisoned by mankind's war a thousand years ago. Refusing to take part in Asbel's plans for revenge, the princess follows her own path, guided by her intuitions about the Fukai.



Creating the collection

Selecting the templates for the next tapestries

This tapestry collection, inspired by Hayao Miyazaki's creations, represents an exceptional challenge: the transition from an animated image to a fixed image in textile form. The first challenge was to select images that would work as tapestries and at the same time convey Miyazaki's world. Of course, these images are in almost constant motion, and there are very few where the setting is shown in wide, relatively static shots. This work takes us back to the literary hangings of the 17thth century, where the artist based their illustrations on a specific moment, frozen in time within the flow of a novel. In the case of this woven interpretation of Hayao Miyazaki's work, the key lies in creating a tapestry collection that captures scenes capable of transporting us into this artist's incredible imaginary world.

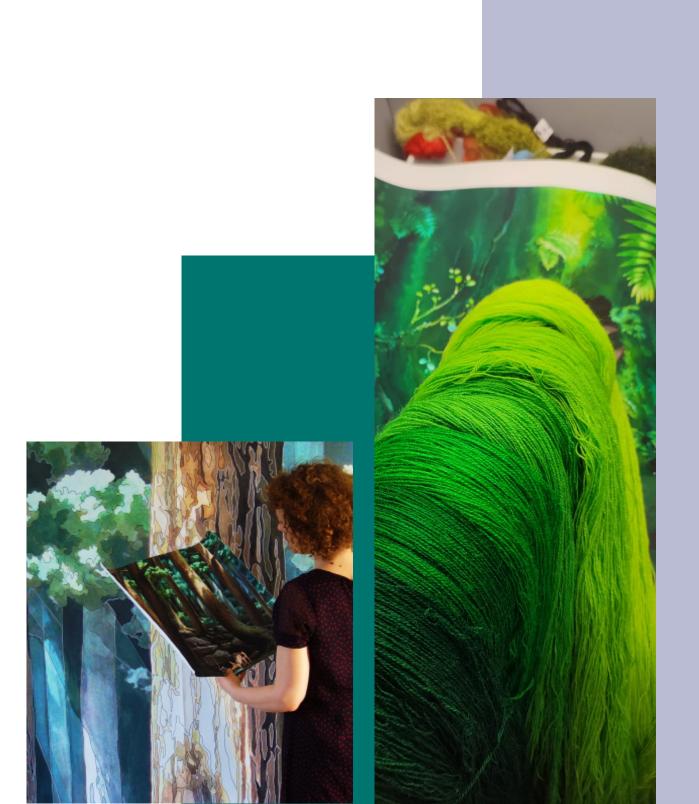
A weaving committee to consider the technical aspects of the projec

A weaving committee (made up of a cartoon maker, a head tapestry-maker, and the Cité internationale de la tapisserie's technical team) was set up to determine the final formats for the tapestries, consider the technical composition of each template, and decide on the materials and textures.

Scaling up

Tapestry is a medium that by its very nature demands to be made on a monumental scale. Creating the "cartoons" that guide tapestry-makers during the weaving process is not simply a matter of enlarging the image to the scale of the tapestry to be made, particularly in the case of templates based on images from animated films. The Cité's curators have taken to using the following explanation for this transposition process: "It's not a simple enlargement: as the tapestrymakers often say, if you start with a rose that's tiny on the drawing and just enlarge it without thinking, you end up with a cabbage. You have to modify the enlargement as you go along, to recapture the essence of the original drawing. There are a whole range of technical parameters to take into account.

Sampling is essential for experimenting with colours, textures and so on. The samples are a way of defining working parameters for the weaves, each of which takes several months.



Creating the first tapestry



L'Atelier Guillot weaving Ashitaka and Yakul in the Forest in the Cité's ateliers © Cité internationale de la tapisserie, 2021

Weaving

The task of weaving the first tapestry *Ashitaka* and *Yakul in the forest* went to Atelier Tapisserie Guillot Aubusson.

The weaving was carried out in one of the Cité internationale de la tapisserie's three ateliers, which meant that the public could take guided tours to discover the weave in progress and talk to the tapestry-makers.

Launched on March 7, 2021, it took nearly a year to finish this monumental 23m2 (5m \times 4m60) tapestry.

The 'tombée de métier'

The 25th of March 2022 saw the first tombée de métier and the first tapestry revealed at the Cité internationale de la tapisserie. This event was shown on several French and Japanese television channels, and was broadcast live on the Cité's YouTube channel. This live stream attracted over 14,000 views, making it the most widely publicised tombée de métier in the entire history of tapestry.

What makes this monumental tapestry so remarkable is its sense of light and depth, and the way it stays true to Hayao Miyazaki's work.

The Cité internationale de la tapisserie was honoured to welcome the Japanese Ambassador to France, his Excellency Mr. Ihara Junichi, for this exceptional tombée de métier.





Hayao Miyazaki © Festiival de Cannes

Hayao Miyazaki biography

Hayao Miyazaki was born in 1941 in Tokyo, Japan. After graduating in political science and economics from Gakushuin University in 1963, he took a job as an animator with the Toei Animation Company. He worked under Isao Takahata on the animation for the film Horus, Prince of the Sun (1968). He then joined the A Production animation studio with Takahata in 1971, where he worked on the script, illustrations, and animation for Panda! Go, Panda! (1972). Hayao Miyazaki worked for various studios, including Zuiyo Eizo with Takahata, Nippon Animation, and Telecom, and helped create illustrations for TV series such as Heidi, Girl of the Alps (1974) and Marco (1976). He directed his first TV series, Future boy Conan (1978). He then released his first film as director, The Castle of Cagliostro (1979). In 1984, Hayao Miyazaki wrote and directed Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind, an adaptation of his graphic novel of the same name published in Japanese monthly magazine Animage.

Hayao Miyazaki co-founded Studio Ghibli with Takahata in 1985, and directed ten animated films including *Castle in the sky* (1986), *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988), *Kiki's delivery service* (1989), *Porco Rosso* (1992) and *Princess Mononoke* (1997). *Spirited Away* (2001) broke all the box-office records in Japan and received numerous awards, including the Golden Bear

at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2022 and the Oscar for best animated film. *Howl's Moving Castle* (2004) received the Golden Osella award at the 2004 Venice International Film Festival.

Hayao Miyazaki received a Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement award at the 2005 Venice International Film Festival. He wrote and directed *Ponyo* (2008). He helped write the screenplay for Hiromasa Yonebayashi's *Arrietty* (2010) and for his son Goro Miyazaki's *From Up on Poppy Hill* (2011). His film, *The Wind Rises* (2013) was nominated for the Best Animated Feature category at the 2013 Oscars. In November 2014, he received an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement. *The Boy and the Heron*, released in 2023 ten years after his previous film, received a triumphant reception.

Hayao Miyazaki has published a large number of books, drawings, and poems, including *Shuppatsuten* 1979-1996 (*Starting Point: 1979-1996, 1996*). He has designed many buildings, including the Ghibli Museum in Mitaka, which opened in 2001 and where he is Executive Director. In 2012, Hayao Miyazaki was awarded the Japanese Order of Cultural Merit. In July 2014, he was inducted into the Will Eisner Hall of Fame.



Aubusson tapestry The Moving Castle at sunset

Weaving Atelier A2 and Atelier Just'lissières, 2023. Cité internationale de la tapisserie. Photo : Studio Nicolas Roger © 2023.

Based on an image from the film Howl's The Moving Castle

© 2004 Studio Ghibli-NDDMT



Aubusson tapestry

Chihiro presented to No Face, 3 x 7.5 m

Weaving Manufacture Robert Four, 2023, Cité internationale de la tapisserie collection. Photo: Studio Nicolas Roger © 2023.

Based on an image from the film The Voyage of Chihiro © 2001 Studio Ghibli-NDDTM



Aubusson tapestry

The Fear of Hauru (Old Sophie at Howl's bedside), 3 x 5.60 m

Weaving Atelier Tapisserie Guillot Aubusson, 2023. Collection Cité internationale de la tapisserie. Photo : Studio Nicolas Roger © 2023.

Based on an image from the film The Moving Castle @ 2004 Studio Ghibli-NDDMT

About the project

The Hayao Miyazaki space at the Cité internationale de la tapisserie

The pieces in the collection will be put on show as and when they are completed in a dedicated space in the Cité internationale de la tapisserie's exhibition rooms.

In May 2021, an evolving exhibition space was created so that visitors can closely follow every step of this exceptional cultural and heritage project. The tapestry collection The *imaginary world* of Hayao Miyazaki in Aubusson Tapestry is exhibited in a semi-darkened room, where the various templates for the future tapestries are lit up, mounted on art paper with a black border. The tapestries in the collection will be put on display in this space, each one in turn depending on when they are exhibited outside the Cité.

A visit to the Cité's weaving workshops

The tapestry «Mei and Totoro take a nap» from the film «My Neighbor Totoro» is currently being woven in the Cité's ateliers. Guided tours of these workshops allow the public to see the weave in progress and talk to the tapestry-makers.

There is also a mini-series, «Aubusson, Luc et la Princesse» (Aubusson, Luc, and the Princess), that follows the first tapestry as it was woven from the point of view of Luc, an apprentice tapestry-maker training at Aubusson.

Episode 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7WdDSCtDII

The tombées de métier

The tombée de métier is the final stage in making a tapestry. It takes the form of a ceremony where the attendees cut the warp threads and remove the tapestry from the loom. This is the first opportunity to see the tapestry in its entirety - and the right way up, as it is face-down during the weaving process. The Cité is broadcasting the tombées de métier for the Hayao Miyazaki tapestry collection live on its YouTube channel, so that everyone can attend these events.

You can find videos of the tombées de métier on the Cité internationale de la tapisserie YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/@CitArtAubusson

Schedule

16 October 2020

Official launch of the operation at MECA in Bordeaux

17 October 2020

Opening of a space dedicated to the project at the Cité de la tapisserie

7 March 2021

Launch of the first tapestry, from the film *Princess Mononoke*

25 March 2022

Looming of the first tapestry, *Princess Mononoké*

20 January 2023

Loom opening of the second tapestry, *The Voyage of Chihiro*

21 April 2023

Loom opening of the third tapestry, *The Moving Castle*

16 June 2023

Loom opening of the fourth tapestry, *The fear of Hauru*

March to May 2023

Exhibition of the tapestry *Princesse Mononoke* at the Grand Théatre de Bordeaux

June to August 2023

Exhibition of the tapestry *Princesse Mononoke* at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris

September to December 2023

Exhibition of the tapestry *Howl's The Moving Castle* at the Salle des fêtes de Bordeaux Grand- Parc

From June to September 2024

Exhibition of the tapestry *Howl's The Moving Castle* at the Hiroshima Museum of Prefectural Art

From October 2024 to January 2025

Exhibition of the tapestry *The banquet of No-Face* at the Médiathèque de Caudéran in Bordeaux

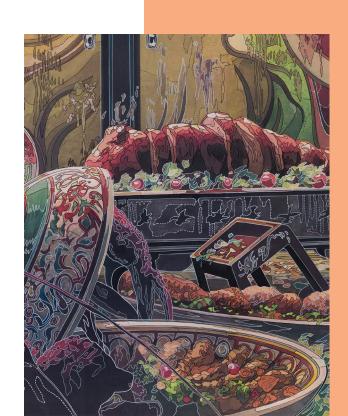
From April to August 2025

Exhibition of the tapestry The Banquet of No-Face at the Aichi Prefectural Art Museum in Nagoya

April to October 2025

Presentation of the tapestry *Princesse*Mononoke in the entrance hall of the French
Pavilion at the OSAKA 2025 World Exhibition

Completion of the hanging at the end of 2026.



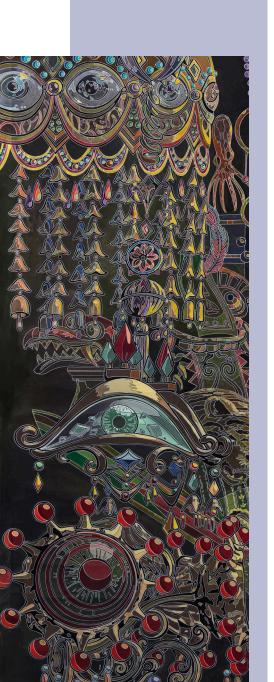
Project timeline

For the collection as a whole

- Selecting images from the films
- · Deciding on the formats of the tapestries to be woven
- Creating the colour ranges to be used in the tapestries (in keeping with the original works)

For each tapestry

- Codification of the "tapestry cartoon" (the artisan tapestrymakers use the cartoon as a template when working on their looms).
- Once the threads (wool, silk, linen) and their calibres have been selected, the technical composition for the cartoon can be specified; along with the dimensions of the piece, the calibre of the threads is a factor in estimating the time and cost of production.
- Weaving at least two tapestry samples in order to explore different options and make design choices. Call for applications from workshops and manufacturers to produce a sample and a proposal for the tapestry.
- Choosing a weaving workshop based on the samples produced by the various workshops and manufactures in the Creuse region; production of the piece can then begin.
- Weaving the piece at the chosen workshop or at the Cité de la tapisserie's own atelier.
- The tapestry is revealed to the public: the 'tombée de métier'. A celebrity is often invited to preside over these occasions. They will be broadcast live on social media, including on the Cité internationale de la tapisserie YouTube channel on the dates indicated opposite.
- The finishing touches will then be made (hems, hanging system).
- Exhibition (hanging).





Practical Information

Cité internationale de la tapisserie – Aubusson

Rue des Arts - BP 89 23200 AUBUSSON

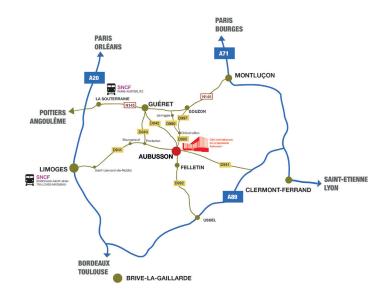
www.cite-tapisserie.fr

f@CiteAubusson

X @CiteTapisserie

🜀 @citetapisserieaubusson

in @cite-internationale-de-la-tapisserie



Rates

Full rate 9€

Reduced rate €6.50:

students, under 25 y/o, over 65 y/o, groups of 10 or more people, Carte Cezam, etc.

Free entrance:

Under 18 y/o, holders of the ICOM card, press card holders, etc.

Opening hours

From September to June

9:30am -12pm and 2pm - 6pm. Closed on Tuesdays.

July and August

10am - 6 pm. Every day apart from Tuesday morning.

Guided tours

Guided tours upon reservation:

Duration: 1 hour to 11/2 hours. For more information please ring the reception desk on +33 (0)5 55 66 66 66 (switchboard option 2).

Free guided tours: in July and August, at 10:30 am and 3pm

A visit to the Cité de la Tapisserie's workshops information at front desk.













Press contact Japan Atout France Tokyo

Mayumi Masuda mayumi.masuda@atout-france.fr

Press contact France Agence Dezarts

agence@dezarts.fr Anne-Solène Delfolie +33 (0)6 78 84 63 42 Anaïs Fritsch +33 (0)6 62 09 43 63

Cité internationale de la tapisserie

Héloïse Gorse Fénelon heloise.gorse@cite-tapisserie.fr +33 (0)9 72 48 15 65 + 33 (0)6 80 18 35 79