

THE IMAGINATION OF  
**HAYAO  
MIYAZAKI**  
CAPTURED IN AUBUSSON  
TAPESTRY

VISITOR BOOKLET

# 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 inspired by the famous films of Hayao Miyazaki, the master of Japanese animation. A new major wall hanging that will enter the collections of the Cité.**

For over 10 years, the Cité de la tapisserie has been committed to promoting this world-renowned French know-how through four main missions: the conservation and promotion of a reference collection labelled *Musée de France*; the preservation of a complete and sustainable economic sector, with an emphasis on training (establishment of a *Brevet des Métiers d'Art*, a two-year diploma in tapestry weaving delivered by the GRETA du Limousin, a government-accredited training centre); the implementation of a proactive policy of contemporary creation; the development in the Aubusson-Felletin region of a production-based ecosystem for activities in the fields of textile and woven arts.

In 2017, the first major wall hangings were launched by the Cité: “Aubusson weaves Tolkien” aims to create a series of 14 tapestries and 2 carpet based on original illustrations by J.R.R. Tolkien. The first artworks were displayed at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) for its major exhibition dedicated to Tolkien in 2019-2020.

In a similar way, an agreement was signed in July 2019 with Studio Ghibli Inc. for the production of wall hangings inspired by animated films by Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki. This operation, entitled “The imaginary of Hayao Miyazaki captured in Aubusson tapestry”, consists in creating five tapestries based on film images selected by the Cité’s technical team and validated by Studio Ghibli Inc.



Born in 1941 in Tokyo, Japan. He directed his first TV series **Conan, the boy in future** (1978). He debuted as a director of theatrical features with **The castle of Cagliostro** (1979). In 1984, Miyazaki wrote and directed his feature **Nausicaa of the valley of the wind**.

Miyazaki co-founded Studio Ghibli in 1985 with Takahata, and has directed ten feature films since, including **Castle in the sky** (1986), **My neighbor Totoro** (1988), **Kiki’s delivery service** (1989), **Porco Rosso** (1992) and **Princess Mononoke** (1997), **Spirites away** (2001), **Howl’s moving castle** (2004), **Ponyo on the cliff by the sea** (2008). He contributed to the planning and wrote the screenplays for Hiromasa Yonebayashi’s **Arrietty** (2010) and Goro Miyazaki’s **From up on Poppy hill** (2011). His latest film is **The wind rises** (2013). In November 2014, he received an Honorary Oscar® for Lifetime Achievement. He is currently working on new production.

# Original works, **inspired by the great films** produced by Studio Ghibli

## Princess Mononoke



Ashitaka and Yakul in the forest, based on an image from the film Princess Mononoke by Hayao Miyazaki © 1997 Studio Ghibli - ND. Tapisserie Guillot Aubusson workshop. Collection Cité internationale de la tapisserie. Photo : Studio Nicolas Roger

### Description of the scene:

A boar possessed by a demon has wounded young warrior Ashitaka to the arm. Now under the curse himself, he will die if he fails to find a way to lift the spell. Together with his mount Yakul, he heads east in the hope of defeating the threat hanging over him and the country. Ashitaka seeks refuge in the cedar woods to soothe his arm under fresh water.

*Miyazaki's work raises the question of Man's relationship with nature; the forest and its universe play a central role, that of the origin of the world, a point of balance for living beings but also a primordial haven of peace. The young hero, a figure from Miyazaki's tales, lives an initiatory quest, made up of discoveries about the truths of the world, traversed by magic, the spirit of the forest, the encounter with love... and is forced to make choices in the light of these ambivalent situations. A transition towards becoming an aware and committed man.*



Unveiling of the first tapestry Ashitaka and Yakul in the forest, at the Cité internationale de la tapisserie. Photo : Cité internationale de la tapisserie

### Technical details of the tapestry:

Ashitaka and Yakul in the forest

**Dimensions :** 5 x 4.60 m

**Start of weaving:** March 2021

**End of weaving:** March 25, 2022

**Weaving:** Tapisserie Guillot  
Aubusson workshop



Discover the ceremony

# Spirited away



Chihiro presented to No-Face based on an image from the film Spirited away of Hayao Miyazaki © 2001 Studio Ghibli – NDDTM. Collection Cité internationale de la tapisserie. Photo : Studio Nicolas Roger

## Description of the scene:

A No-Face helps Chihiro in her quest to find her parents who have been turned into pigs, but he has become a gluttonous and enormous creature, devastating the banquet as he demands the girl's arrival. Chihiro will make him swallow a pellet of medicinal plants given by the spirit of the river, which will cause the No-Face to vomit and regurgitate all the beings he has devoured.

*Faceless, merciless? The Faceless is a solitary chimera in search of identity, in search of its own self; it is caught up in a game of lust, seduction, possession, and faces its desire to be without success. The setting, decorated with painted demons and loaded with piled up food, adds further to suggest the outrageous aspect of this lost being. Chihiro's innocent and generous resistance opposes the Faceless spirit with a form of dissatisfaction and assigns him a place, which will build the possibility of a friendship.*



## Technical details of the tapestry:

Chihiro presented to No-Face

**Dimensions:** 3 x 7.50 m

**Start of weaving:** January 2022

**End of weaving:** January 20, 2023

**Weaving:** Manufacture Robert Four

# Howl's Moving Castle



Cartoon for the tapestry *The Moving Castle at sunset*, based on an image from the film *Howl's Moving Castle* of Hayao Miyazaki © 2004 Studio Ghibli – NDDMT. Collection Cité internationale de la tapisserie. Photo : Studio Nicolas Roger

## Description of the scene:

Sophie, an 18 year old girl, has just been transformed into an old woman by the Witch of the Waste. She flees the city and meets a turnip headed scarecrow who shows her the way to the Howl's moving castle, the home of Hauru, a young, seductive and mysterious magician.

*In Miyazaki's fantasy world, the living also means bringing the inanimate to life. From the character of the turnip scarecrow to this mobile and hybrid, almost animal-like castle, the marvelous spirit tells how to live in the world, questioning the sedentary way of life, and why not live in the world as a passenger, that is to say in the metamorphosis of beings and things.*



## Technical details of the tapestry:

The Moving Castle at sunset

**Dimensions :** 5 x 5 m

**Start of weaving:** June 2022

**End of weaving:** April 23, 2023

**Weaving:** Just'lissières and Atelier A2 workshops

# Howl's Moving Castle

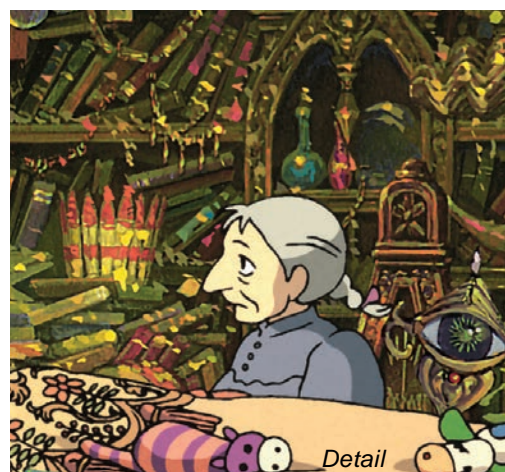


Old Sophie at Howl's bedside from the film *Le Château ambulant de Hayao Miyazaki* © 2004 Studio Ghibli – NDDMT.

## Description of the scene:

Hauru, the magician who has transformed himself into a bird, returns home exhausted from a fight. Moreover, while tidying up the castle, Sophie moved his belongings and because of her, his blond hair has turned black. Hauru sinks into depression. Sophie is at his bedside. Hauru confesses to her his fear and his failure to fulfill his responsibilities as a wizard in the King's war against another country. He asks her to go and see the Royal Witch Suliman, pretending to be his mother, in order to announce his refusal to fight.

*The relationship to the domestic, to the everyday space, is recurrent and in the magician's room, covered with lucky charms and cuddly toys, treasures of childhood, the heroine faces the young man. The latter, paralyzed by the inability to overcome his fears, does not leave the time of adolescence. The notions of death and life, of a chosen way of life or of the care given to the other, cross this initiatory scene. The power and courage of the Feminine builds a central point of Miyazaki's work.*



## Technical details of the tapestry:

Old Sophie at Howl's bedside

**Dimensions :** 3 x 5.60 m

**Start of weaving:** June 2022

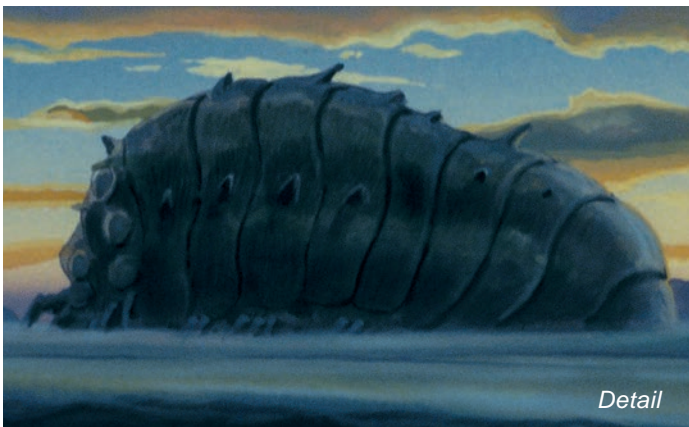
**End of weaving:** June 16, 2023

**Weaving :** Atelier Tapisserie Guillot  
Aubusson

# Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind



Panoramic view of the Omus from the film Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind de Hayao Miyazaki © 1984 Studio Ghibli-H



## Description of the scene:

Humans have tried to destroy the Omus, giant insects of the forest which is now toxic. But the army of Omus has attacked and annihilated cities and civilizations. Far from the forest, these giants have ended up dying of hunger, toxic mould has covered their corpses and filled the atmosphere with deadly poison.

*The living is often shown in apocalyptic situations, the result of the struggles and fickle actions of mankind. In this long panorama, the landscape is devastated, harmful. Miyazaki, in a form of anticipatory narrative, tells the end of the reign of mankind and the "revenge of nature". It is a return to a cycle that is not exclusively ecological but in search of harmonious diversity.*



## Technical details of the future tapestry:

Panoramic view of the Omus

**Dimensions :** 2 x 10 m

**Start of weaving:** to be determined

**End of weaving :** to be determined

# Realisation of the wall hanging

## Production stages

### For the wall-hangings as a whole

- Selecting images from the films;
- Determining the sizes of the tapestries;
- Creating the gouache paint in the range of colours to be used for the weavings (in keeping with the original works).

### For each tapestry

- Codification of the “tapestry cartoons” (the weavers place the cartoon on their looms to act as a template);
- Choosing threads (wool, silk, linen) as well as their calibres makes it possible to carry out the technical composition of the cartoon. The calibre of the threads is also associated with the dimensions of the work and must be taken into account when estimating the time and cost of creating the tapestry;
- Weaving of at least two tapestry samples in order to adopt the best guidelines and make decisions;
- Sending of applications requesting the production of a sample and a proposal for weaving the tapestry to workshops and manufactories;
- Selection of the weaving workshop, based on the samples produced by the different workshops and manufactories in Creuse. The work will then go into production;
- Weaving of the tapestry at the chosen workshop or at the Cité de la tapisserie’s own atelier;
- The tapestry will be unveiled to the public during the cutting off ceremony called “la tombée de métier”, literally, “the fall from the loom”;
- The finishing touches will then be made (hems, hanging system);
- Exhibition of the tapestries.

## Calendrier du projet :

- **October 16, 2020:** official launch of the project at the MECA in Bordeaux;
- **October 17, 2020:** opening of a dedicated presentation display at the Cité de la tapisserie;
- **March 7, 2021:** work begins on the first weaving based on the film Princess Mononoke;
- **March 25, 2022:** completion of the first tapestry Princess Mononoke;
- **January 20, 2023:** completion of the second tapestry Spirited away
- **April 21, 2023:** completion of the third tapestry Howl’s moving castle
- **June 16, 2023:** completion of the fourth tapestry Howl’s moving castle
- **Summer of 2024:** completion of the wall hanging.



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