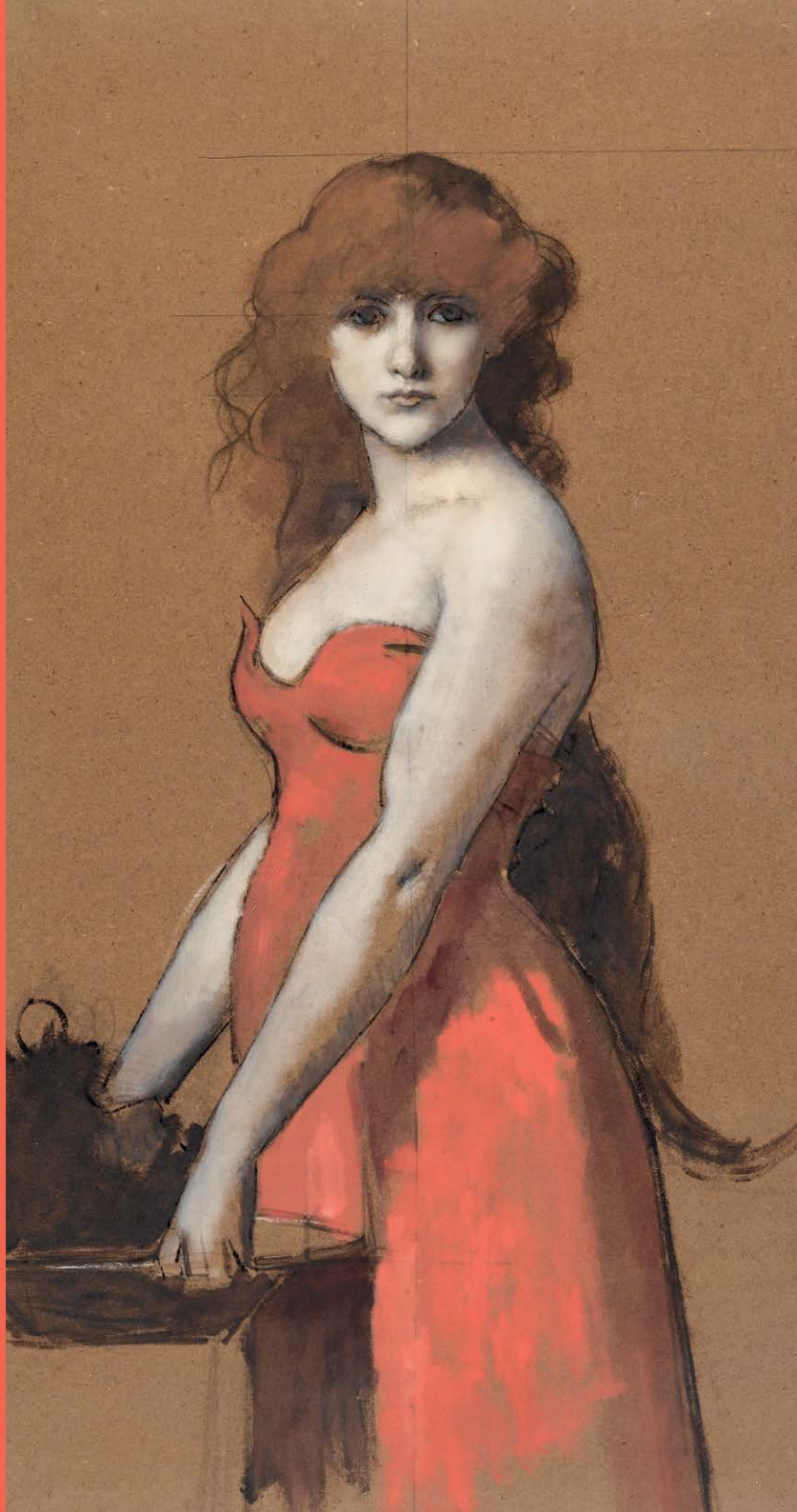


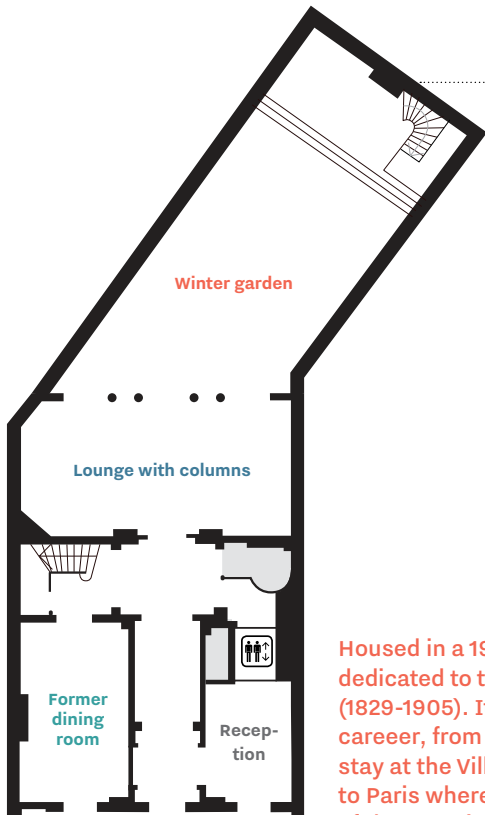
Musée national
Jean-Jacques Henner

Visitors'
guide

English

Discover
an artists'
studio-
museum





Ground floor
43, avenue de Villiers



Countess Kessler,
around 1886

Housed in a 19th century mansion, the museum is dedicated to the work of the painter Jean-Jacques Henner (1829-1905). Its collections tell the story of Henner's career, from the early days in his native Alsace to his stay at the Villa Medici after his Prix de Rome and finally to Paris where he was a successful painter and one of the most important of his time. The many works from Henner's studio provide insight into how a successful painter would work during the Impressionist period.

Former dining room

The former dining room in Guillaume Dubufe's mansion, which has been transformed into a museum dedicated to the work of Jean-Jacques Henner, has been made into an area in which the visitor can explore the Plaine Monceau quarter by looking at maps from the period and discovering the many artists that lived there. A timeline and an interactive display offer a fresh look at both the personality and career of Jean-Jacques Henner.

Lounge with columns

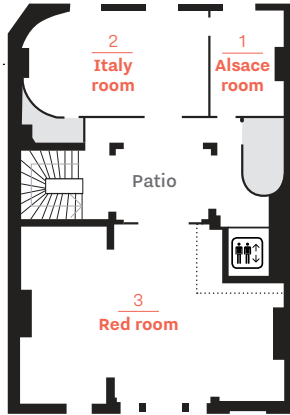
The lounge still has its French neo-Renaissance ceiling, inspired by the queen's cabinets at the royal castle in Blois which were restored in the mid-1800s by the architect Félix Duban. The wood panels are decorated with intertwined D's for Dubufe and C's for his wife Cécile. The lounge was modified in 1926 when the wall separating it from the winter garden was replaced with four columns. Paintings by Henner and furniture on loan from the Mobilier national are on display.

Winter garden

Decorated with a mosaic that had both floral and Greek motifs dating from 1878, in Dubufe's time the winter garden was filled with a mixture of furniture, works of art and exotic plants. It was a place to receive people and to entertain. Today, it is a multifunctional space used for various events including temporary exhibitions, concerts and shows. It is also home to the painting, *La Comtesse Kessler*, by Jean-Jacques Henner.



Adam and Eve discovering the body of Abel, sketch, 1858



1st floor



Eugénie Henner as Alsatian holding a basket of apples, 1869



Alsace. She waits, 1871

1 | Alsace room

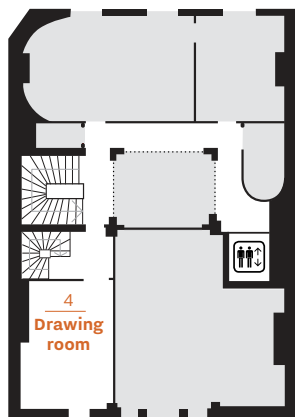
Jean-Jacques Henner was born on 5 March 1829 in Bernwiller in the Sundgau region of southern Alsace. He was the sixth and last child in a family of well-to-do farmers. It was here that Henner began his apprenticeship as an artist. He studied drawing while at secondary school in Altkirch and later trained under Gabriel Guérin in Strasbourg before continuing his studies in Paris from 1846. As a young man, he painted mostly portraits and realistic scenes of daily life in which he depicts his family. Henner retained strong ties with the region of his birth, which had been annexed by Germany, visiting it every year between August and October. While there, he liked to paint landscapes of the Sundgau region, which almost invariably featured bushes, a little pond, a hill and the sky at sunset.

2 | Italy room

In 1858 Henner won the Grand Prix de Rome for painting. This success led to a five-year stay at the Villa Medici in Rome. There, he devoted himself to preparing paintings which he had to send back to Paris each year so that his progress could be assessed. Henner travelled a lot during his time in Italy, which was in the process of unifying. From June to October 1860 he went to Florence, passing through Umbria, then Parma, Venice and Milan. Between August and October 1862 he stayed in the region of Naples, and was to return again in July 1864. In the museums, he painted many copies of grand Masters such as Carpaccio and Titian. During his time in Italy, he discovered his liking for painting landscapes. Small paintings, often done on paper that would later be glued to a canvas, were most likely painted on the spot.

3 | Red room

Henner led an "official" career filled with honours, such as a painter could achieve in the second half of the nineteenth century. In addition to the Prix de Rome, he was elected member of the Institut de France in 1889, his paintings were often bought by the state and he won many awards at the Salon where he exhibited each year. He was seen as an important artist at the time. In this room, works exhibited at the Salon are displayed near the painting that made him famous, *Alsace. She waits*. After a brief incursion into naturalism, Henner, known as a history painter, moved increasingly to a more allusive style and to subjects without reference to a specific context, such as *The Reader* or *Sleep*. Henner painted over 400 portraits of which many were commissions. The people who came to sit for him in his studio give us a glimpse into society at the time.



2nd floor



3rd floor



The Naiads, 1877

4 | Drawing room

In the little room behind the mashrabiya visitors can see thematic displays, mainly of graphic art, which are rotated regularly because of their sensitivity to light. Of the 1327 drawings the Jean-Jacques Henner museum holds, 987 are by the artist himself. These are essentially works from his studio collection, ranging from quick sketches to studies that are very close to the final painting.

5 | Grey studio

In 1867, Jean-Jacques Henner set up his studio at 11 place Pigalle. For him it was not just a place to work, but also to entertain. His creative process can be seen through the sketches and unfinished paintings that were made in preparation for the most monumental work on show in the museum, *The Naiads*, which was a private commission for a dining room. You can also see furniture, sculptures and objects that were in Henner's studio. In preparation for his large

compositions, the painter did research and many preliminary sketches, often drawn from life. Henner was also in the habit of producing small replicas of his successful paintings to be sold to art lovers. His work in the studio is also illustrated by more intimate pieces such as nudes, models posing, still lifes and portraits of students or friends. As these works were not intended for exhibition, they are generally not signed but sometimes have a studio stamp showing "JJ HENNER".

Opening hours

Open daily from 11:00 – 18:00
except for Tuesdays
and some public holidays
Late-night opening until 21:00
on the second Thursday of the month

Admission fee

6 € full price
4€ reduced price

Getting there

Metro: Malesherbes,
Monceau, Wagram
RER: Pereire
Bus: 30, 31, 94