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press kit

THE CAVERN OF PONT-D'ARC



© Fabre-Speller Architectes-Atelier 3A Ollier - F.Neou - Scène - SYCPA

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Editorials

«Who would have thought that mankind's first cultural achievement was not associated with an exceptional modern creation? The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc is an invitation to a journey back in time, a wonderful dive into the heart of humanity and a major landmark in the history of civilisation. Our ambition is to give visitors the opportunity to feel the same emotions, experience the same sensations and the surprise to discover a unique place in the world. And this crazy project in all respects - technological, artistic as well as scientific - has now become reality. Over the years, thanks to the shared commitment of the State, local authorities, scientists and every single actor involved, I have managed to turn this project into a major, ambitious achievement. Today, we can be proud to offer the world the most perfect recreation of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, the largest cave reproduction ever created. By revealing the invisible at the heart of the Ardèche Gorge, we will offer humanity a true journey of initiation, guiding current and future generations towards our common roots as free human beings and universal thinkers.»

Pascal Terrasse

President of the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc Grand Project,
MP for the Ardèche

«Discovered nearly 20 years ago, The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc elicits all sorts of superlatives! This unique cave, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, is not only the oldest cave decorated by man, it is also the most stunning, the largest and the best preserved of all. Adorned with the richest and most diverse of bestiaries, this mineral time capsule never fails to arouse the enthusiasm of those who have had the rare privilege of entering it. This shows the extent of the challenge taken up by the Department of the Ardèche and the Rhône-Alpes Region teaming up in a joint partnership to undertake a project that has received the support of the Ministry of Culture: the creation of an authentic replica of The Cave of Pont-d'Arc summoning up the magic of its illustrious model. This new, ambitious cultural facility will open to the public in a few months' time, on 25 April 2015. But we can already be assured of its success! The bold alliance of artistic creation and the most advanced technologies, some of which were used for the first time, will make of this replica a true prototype. In this respect, we can say that from the 36,000-year-old Cave of Pont-d'Arc to the Cavern as it is recreated today, via the invention of cinematography by the Lumière brothers in 1895, the long love affair of the Rhône-Alpes Region with images is far from being over!»

Jean-Jack Queyranne

President of the Rhône-Alpes Region,
Ex-Minister,
Vice-President of the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc Grand Project

Editorials

«I am proud, incredibly proud to say that the Ardèche is the geographical location of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d’Arc. This pride is a collective pride. Those that make you climb mountains and drive you, first two, then ten, then a hundred, and then... everyone, all to find the answers as to what is there, this treasure of intelligence, sensitivity, human presence will be revealed to the greatest number.

36 000 years separate us from these men, highflying artists, who settled there, a few metres from a river that still defines our territory. Almost everything is similar, nature - it - has not aged. Our ambition is that it should be the same. To preserve this masterpiece for future generations, to continue to make it indestructible, untouched by the ravages of man and time is the same reason for our work. A replica for all, a protected area for science... and for our descendants. On the scale of life, twenty years is a long time, but already much less in the time of the community, and nothing at all compared to that of humanity.

The General Council has been able to invest in the time it takes to produce with its partners, the public cultural space that will speak of hunter-gatherers and fabulous artists. Of that too, I am proud.»

Hervé Saulignac

President of the General Council of the Ardèche
Vice-President of the Rhône-Alpes Region

«The Decorated Cave of Pont-d’Arc, this «earthly jewel» contains intact traces of the lives of our ancestors there, 36 000 years ago. The wall paintings, and also the spatial arrangements that Man has produced, and the role played by the Arc Bridge facing the cave reveal a part of our ancient humanity. Too fragile to receive visitors, one is attracted to

ensure its optimal conservation in order to pass it on to future generations. But the secrets it contains must be known by all. Current virtual communication tools allow it to be broadcast around the world! Closeby, the Cavern of Pont-d’Arc will faithfully reflect this, deeply affecting the soul and intimacy of everyone.»

Bernard Gonzalez

Prefect of the Ardèche

«The Decorated Cave of Pont-d’Arc is one of the most exceptional examples of the invention of art by Man, and this is why we have a duty to pass on to our children and to future generations this several thousand year-old heritage.

The Association for the development of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d’Arc arose from the belief that this priceless treasure, which hosts the oldest traces of humanity, must be accessible to as many people as possible. As such, it seeks to highlight the cave on a cultural level, to participate in national and international reputation of the project.»

Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière

President of the Association for the Development of the Decorated Cave of Pont-d’Arc

1. THE CAVERN OF PONT-D'ARC, a replica of this treasure bequeathed by our ancestors to be shared with the world

The largest decorated cave replica in the world



© Agence Fabre et Speller - Atelier 3A

The most important replica decorated cave in the world, The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc is located on the heights of Vallon Pont-d'Arc at Le Raza, in the heart of a 29 hectare woodland. The 8 500 m² Decorated Cave of Pont d'Arc known as Grotte Chauvet has been condensed down to 3 000 m². As with the original cave, the entire visit takes place on a raised-walkway which is punctuated by 10 observation points. Developed in close collaboration with the scientific research team, The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc is an innovative site using scenographic techniques which have never before been implemented on such a scale. The cave-wall profiles are reproduced down to the millimetre; The most remarkable paintings, engravings, palaeontological and essential geological representations are reproduced full-scale from the scanned originals. The objective is to reproduce the emotions originally aroused by the cave and to reveal its hidden world.

After the emotion, the explanation. The Discovery Centre, the second cultural element, will allow visitors to better understand the setting, its flora and fauna and the environment of the people who lived in our region 36 000 years ago.

The achievement of this project, led by the team of the Joint Association of The Cavern of Pont d'Arc was entrusted to the architects Fabre-Speller (Xavier Fabre and Vincent Speller) and the workshop Atelier 3A Associés (Albert Ollier & Associates). For the scenography, the Parisian agency Scène (Jean-Hugues Manoury and Melanie Claude). The replica will be run by Kleber Rossillon who are specialised in the management of cultural and tourist sites as part of the delegation of public services.



© Agence Fabre et Speller - Atelier 3A

Inspired by a common desire to share this prehistoric cave sanctuary with as many people as possible, in 2007 the General Council of the Ardèche and the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes created the Joint Association for the Space for the Reproduction of the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet. A comprehensive study was undertaken and a Charter of Cooperation was signed between the French State, the Rhône-Alpes region and the Department of Ardèche.

The reproduction of the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc achieves two objectives:

- To design and implement a major cultural project worthy of the universal heritage that is the original cave
- To promote regional development, the standing and international reputation of the Ardèche and its surrounding region, building on this great cultural project.

THE CAVERN OF PONT D'ARC IN BRIEF

- A project supported by the Rhône-Alpes Region and the General Council of Ardèche, with strong support from the French State and from Europe.
- A construction entrusted to a project management consortium involving 35 companies covering construction, industry, crafts and arts
- The biggest replica in the world ; 3 000 m² ground area and 8 180 m² surface area of scenery created in total (comprising the ground, walls and ceilings) (10 times the size of the Lascaux replica)
- An investment of 55 million
- Architects : Fabre Speller (Clermont Ferrand) in association with Atelier 3A from Le Teil
- Scenography Designer : Agency Scène
- Stimulation of the visitors' senses : hearing, reduced temperature, sensation of humidity...
- 30 months of work
- Opening april 25th 2015
- Historical site, the basis of a new regional, cultural and heritage politic

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE SERVICE OF THE RECONSTRUCTION



© EURL Perazio



© Christian Tran Sacra Arcos

The accomplishment of the replica is the result of a close collaboration with the scientific team. Designed in a naturalistic spirit, the replica faithfully reproduces the complex and turbulent works depicted in the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc.

To conserve the appearance of the original works, the specialists have used 3D modelling and anamorphic techniques. Using a high-precision scanner, a three-dimensional digital model of the cave has been created.

Three steps were necessary to achieve this technological feat:

- The recording of a «point clouds» to generate a continuous surface corresponding to the original volume and profile.
- Taking 6 000 digital photos.
- The superimposition of these pictures onto the corresponding computerised cave-walls.

Designed under the direction of the Joint Association by Guy Perazio (Cabinet Pérazio, Isère), Créatime and Campenon

Bernard Régions, this 3D model is a revolutionary tool available to the researchers, scenographers and architects involved in the creation of the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc.

Scientific Committee for The Decorated Cave of Pont d'Arc

The International Scientific Committee chaired by the Prehistorian Jean Clottes (Director of Scientific Research for the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc cave, known as Grotte Chauvet from 1998 to 2006) evaluates the different reproductions.

PRESIDENT:

Jean Clottes – Heritage Curator, International rock-art Expert - UNESCO and ICOMOS, and Honorary President of the French Prehistoric Society

MEMBERS:

Marie Bardisa – Curator of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc

Jean-Michel Geneste – Director of the scientific team at the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc known as Grotte Chauvet and Director of the National Centre of Prehistory.

Jean-Jacques Delannoy – Director of the EDYTEM Laboratory, University of Savoy

Geneviève Pinçon – Scientific Manager, Roc-aux-Sorcerer.

Gerhard Bosinski – Honorary Professor of the University of Cologne.

Roberto Ontañón Peredo – Head of the Archeology Section at the Cultural Heritage Service for the Province of Cantabria.

Marc Groenen – Professor of Prehistory at the University Libre de Bruxelles

Harald Floss – Prehistorian at the University of Tübingen.

André Delpuech – Chief Curator of Heritage for the Americas Collections at the musée du quai Branly.

Abdellah Salih – Director of Moroccan Heritage.

Margareth Conkey – Professor of Anthropology at the University of Berkeley - United States.

Yann-Pierre Montelle – Prehistorian of the University of Canterbury - New Zealand.

Miquel Barcelo – Modelling Artist.

Anne Le Bot-Helly – Regional Curator of Archaeology

Patricia Guillermin – Curator of the Regional Archaeology, Museum of Orgnac-Aven - Ardèche



THE ARCHITECTURE

Architects Xavier Fabre/Vincent Speller together with Atelier 3A designed the building that houses the cave replica as well as the others at Le Razal. **The architectural project consists of five elements (the Replica Cave, Discovery Centre, Educational Centre, Events Space and Food-Court) which are spread across ten hectares to give the appearance of a footprint on the landscape.** Each site can be reached within three to six minutes on foot, and visitors can choose the order and their own pace for a circuit dotted with surprises and discoveries.

This extensive arrangement gives the buildings an autonomous and distinct appearance but which is well-integrated into the topography of the site. Built as discretely as possible and keeping close to the ground-level, each of the buildings that make up The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc give the impression of walls that rise-up out of the earth. Landscaping has been a priority for this project. The buildings are extensions of this topography and do not exceed the height of the treetops.

The unobtrusive architecture does not mean that it is absent, but rather it presents a «neutral» design, topographical, with repetitive rhythms and which discreetly underlines the strengths of the site and of the programme.

THE EMOTION REPRODUCED

The scenography reflects a unique experience: the entry and progression into a universe full of spiritual power and extraordinary aesthetic quality. It focuses on the monumental character of the cave, its beauty and the remarkable freshness of its remains. **To reconstruct the atmosphere of the underground environment, all five senses are stimulated. Freshness, moisture, silence, darkness and smell all contribute to immerse visitors in this special world, which still seems to be inhabited by the presence of men and bears.** Special methods have been used to recreate the acoustics of the cave, its quiet atmosphere conducive to meditation and concentration. The coloured concretions that make the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc a unique geological feature are reconstructed.

This entire replica has been made by the Group SOCRA-Campenon Bernard Régions together the workshops Arc et Os founded by Alain Dalis Montignac and Gilles Tosello (Toulouse), Atelier Artistique de Béton - AAB (Mormant) and Phénomènes (Paris).

THE DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc will open its doors to its first visitors. To complement this visit and to extend the experience, the Discovery Centre, whose scenery is entrusted to Tempora (Brussels), welcomes children and adults in order that they may better understand the Palaeolithic period, its flora and fauna, and the humanity of 36 000 years ago.

The visit begins in the auditorium where a spectacular film immerses visitors in a scene from the Aurignacian era where they will find themselves in the setting of the Pont-d'Arc, its animals, the cave and its paintings.

At the end of the projection, double-doors beneath the screen open onto an immersive journey amongst woolly rhinoceros, woolly mammoths, megaceros and steppe bison. Scenes of everyday life and a decorated rock-wall complete the discovery.



The Discovery Centre exhibition centres around the following three themes:

- **Our prehistoric ancestors:** this part of the exhibition is a knowledge inventory about our ancestors who painted the walls of the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc: Who were they? Where did they come from? What did they do?
- **The Ardèche 30 000 years ago:** this section presents how the Ardèche looked while the Earth was experiencing an ice-age and the landscapes occupied by our ancestors. Mammoths, lions, cave bears and woolly rhinoceros are particularly present in the exhibition and these are presented in a spectacular way.
- **The cave-wall art and its origins:** this section mainly addresses the theme in the exhibition and is the keystone of the visit. Thus, The Cave of Pont-d'Arc is the only place in France and one of the few in the world that deals with art created by our ancestors. The painting means, techniques and themes are discussed as well as the fundamental question of their meaning.

An Interactive, aesthetic and fun learning experience that's not to be missed!

The Discovery Centre is designed to complement the City of Prehistory at the Grand Site de l'Aven, Orgnac.

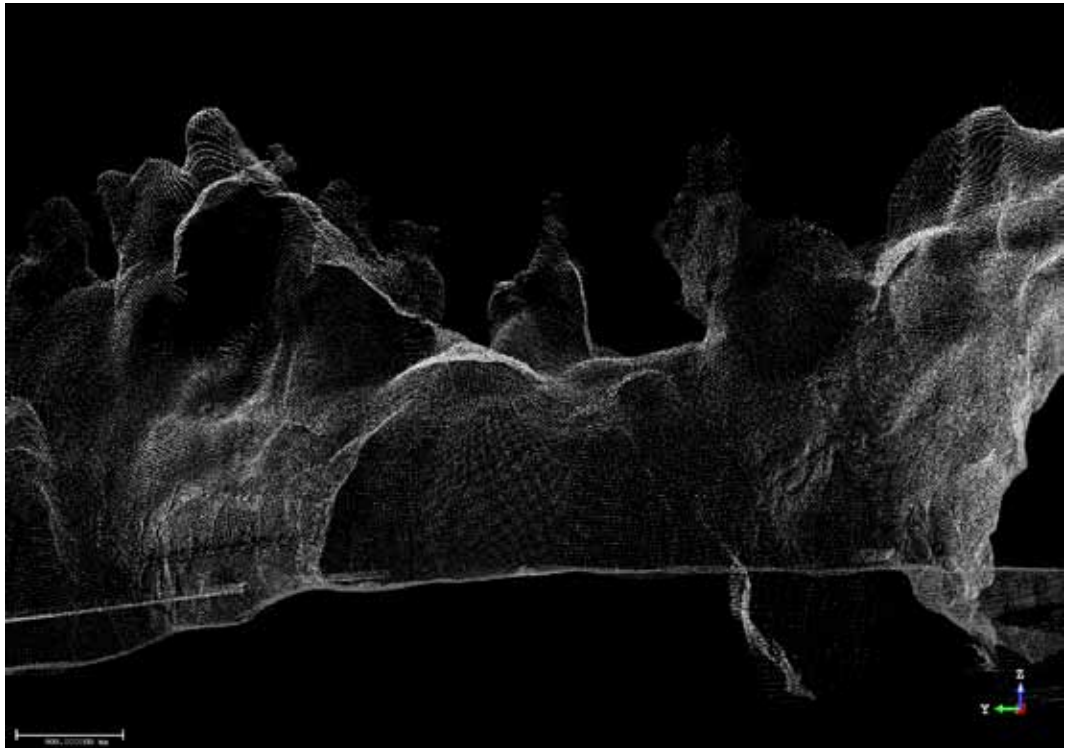
THE RECREATION OF THE CAVERN OF PONT- D'ARC

STAGE 1

Creation of a 3D digital model

*Cabinet Pérazio, SOCRA Campenon Bernard Régions, Créatime,
Agence SCENE, Edytem*

Three stages were necessary to this technological prowess:

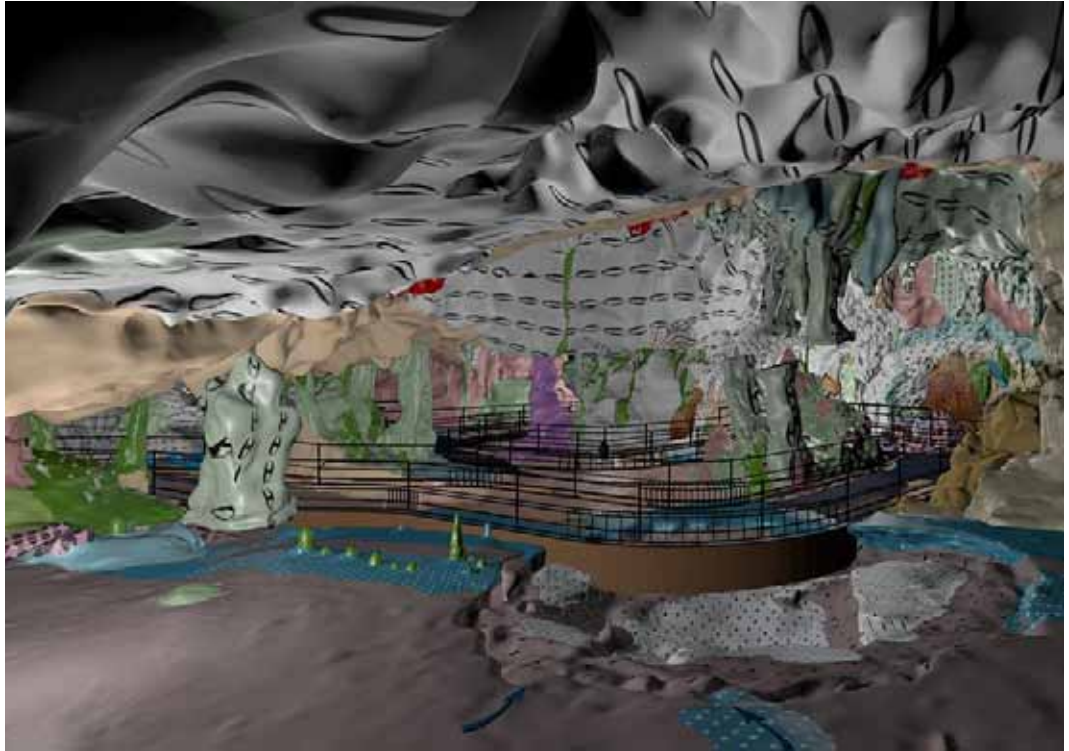


The recording of a «point cloud» generated a continuous surface corresponding to the original volume and profile.
© Cabinet Pérazio

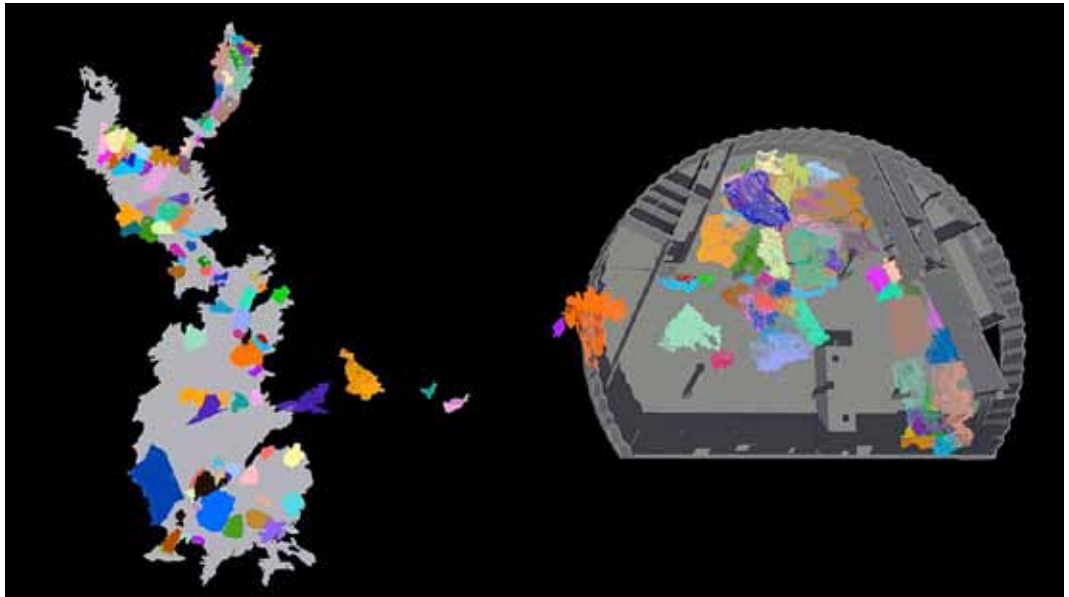


6,000 digital photos were taken and superimposed onto the corresponding computerised cave walls. © Cabinet Pérazio

STAGE 1



The complete digital model of the replica, produced by the various companies involved, the surveyor, the project manager and the scientists, served as the ultimate reference during the whole building process. © Campenon Bernard Régions - Edytem - Pérazio



Outstanding elements from the cave were identified by scientists and compacted into a reduced space. Architects and scenographers could then base their design of the replica on anamorphic principles. © Cabinet Pérazio

STAGE 2 **Building of a gigantic concrete shell mirroring the cave's morphology**

Design: Freyssinet-Cofex-AAB

Monitoring and control: Scène

Coordination: SOCRA- Campenon Bernard Régions

Scientific monitoring: Edytem



Thousands of metal rods (totalling 150 kilometres in length) were made by hand to reproduce profiles, each model of which was totally unique. © Philippe Psaila



Rods were then welded together to form structures that perfectly reproduced the shapes, vaults, walls and floors of the original cave. © SYCPA – Sébastien Gayet

STAGE 2



The skeleton of the recreated cave was then fixed to the ceiling of the replica's building. © SYCPA

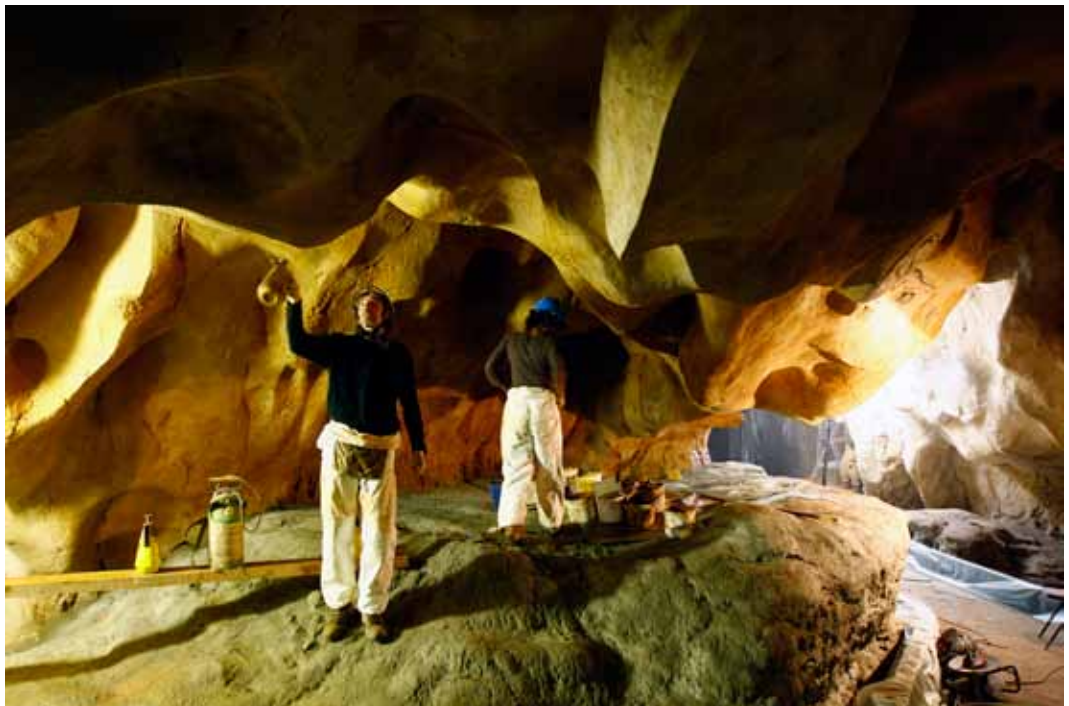


Two layers of mortar composed of mineral materials and natural binders were applied onto these metal cages. © SYCPA – Sébastien Gayet

STAGE 2



Sculptors then worked the mortar to give it texture, perfect its shape and simulate cracks whilst relying on the «facial mapping» established by Edytem laboratory's geomorphologists to get as close a result as possible to the original aspect (colours, textures, specific materials).. © SYCPA –Sébastien Gayet



Once the volumes completed, decorators brought the final touches with brushes and sponges by adding colour, using ochre, earth and manganese. © SYCPA – Sébastien Gayet

STAGE 3

Parietal pannels: this is when the counterfeiters moved in!

Design: l'atelier Arc et Os Alain Dalis, Gilles Tosello, Déco-diffusion

Monitoring and control: Scène

Coordination: SOCRA- Campenon Bernard Régions

Scientific monitoring: Jean-Michel Geneste, Jean-Jacques Delannoy

Creation of 27 parietal pannels by the Arc et Os team under the supervision of Alain Dalis.



A reproduction down to the millimetre: 3D tracings were used to build moulds from which pannels were made using resin and natural materials. © Stéphane Compoin / Résolute



Representations of parietal paintings were projected onto those «modules». © SYCPA – Christian Tran

STAGE 3



Artists then tried to recreate the gestures and virtuosity of the paleolithic painters in order to reproduce the drawings. They also worked materials and colours in such a way as to give them particular reflections, patina and texture.
© SYCPA –Sébastien Gayet



Gilles Tosello was put in charge of two emblematic pannels in the cave: the horse's pannel and the great lion fresco. As a parietal art expert and member of the scientific committee, Gilles Tosello used the same method as the one devised by Aurignacian artists: charcoal produced from burnt Scots pine. © Carole Fritz

STAGE 4

Production of geological elements and bones

Design: Phénomènes – Cossima Production Dasplet

Monitoring and control: Scène

Coordination: SOCRA- Campenon Bernard Régions

Scientific monitoring: Jean-Jacques Delannoy et Philippe Fosse



Stalactites, stalagmites, draperies, walls and floor concretions were reproduced by the Phénomènes team of sculptors, designers, technicians and engineers. © SYCPA – Christian Tran



The complexity of such a structure required a great deal of research in two distinct areas: on the one hand, materials, colours and translucence; on the other, sculptural forms to reproduce geological phenomena. Photographies, mouldings and preforms served as references during the design process. © SYCPA – Christian Tran

STAGE 4



Bones and skulls displaced by prehistoric dwellers were reproduced by the Cossima Production-Dasplet team of artists from mouldings of genuine cave bear skeletons and photographs taken in the original cave during the numerous work sessions. © Philippe Psaila

STAGE 5

The very last stages

*Design: l'atelier Arc et Os Alain Dalis, Gilles Tosello,
Déco-diffusion, Phénomènes, Cossima Production Dasplet,
Freyssinet-Cofex-AAB*

Monitoring and control: Scène

Coordination: SOCRA- Campenon-Bernard Régions

*Scientific monitoring: Jean-Michel Geneste, Jean-Jacques
Delannoy, Philippe Fosse*



Pannels are integrated into the replica. © SYCPA – Sébastien Gayet



Geological elements are integrated into the replica © SYCPA – Sébastien Gayet

STAGE 5



450 skeletal remains made of resin - skulls (including 50 male, female and bear cub skulls), vertebrae, jaws, ribs, teeth, shinbones - are faithfully reproduced and integrated into the replica. © SYCPA – Sébastien Gayet



Charcoal traces of fires and of extinguished torches are produced by Arc et Os with resin and integrated into the replica. © SYCPA – Sébastien Gayet

STAGE 5



And to evoke the special atmosphere of an underground cave and stimulate the visitors' five senses, the scenographers of Scène devised all sorts of lighting effects and recreated sensations of coolness and humidity as well as the ambient silence.

A regional challenge



A few figures:

- 60 to 70 people will be employed at the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc in high season.
- Between 300 and 500 jobs will indirectly be generated by the project.
- An extra 15 to 20 million euros of tourists' spending will benefit the local economy every year.

Known and appreciated for a long time for its landscapes and outdoor activities, with its authentic identity, the Ardèche now becomes a cultural and heritage destination amongst the most popular in the world.

The discovery and the replica of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, and the ranking as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, endows the Ardèche and Rhône-Alpes Region with a new renown and offers significant opportunities for economic development. This unique opportunity requires an exceptional regional support, with an anticipation of, and ability to identify and support innovative and coherent projects.

To welcome between 300,000 and 400,000 visitors per year requires an effective collaboration between all of the participants, both public and private, to drive an efficient development of tourism which respects the challenges of the region and its inhabitants. This is a real change that needs to address the tourism sector, to move from a seasonal activity largely focused on nature and water, to a more diverse and seasonally balanced yet diverse welcome.

In terms of jobs, the activities developed around the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc and the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc envisages the creation of 50 direct jobs and hundreds of indirect jobs.

Beyond these figures, the benefits in the areas of innovation, research and higher education in the fields of imaging or knowledge of underground environments including education, are expected in the Ardèche and Rhone-Alpes Region.

The main projects initiated by the actors involved on the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc site are:

- The completion of new public facilities to strongly structure the surrounding area and anchor the presence of the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc in the region: opening of City of Prehistory, Orgnac; creation of the ancient site of Alba-la-Romaine; redevelopment of the Pont-d'Arc site
- The increased availability of public transport and eco-friendly means of transportation across the Vallon Pont-d'Arc basin
- The strengthening of the image/documentary centres in Lussas
- The development of partnerships with universities: creation of a Training Institute for Research and Expertise on Underground Environments; development of higher education
- Training programmes aimed at local people to develop new skills and meet the new demands of the tourist industry
- The setting-up of a supply chain of local agri-food produce and crafts for the Cavern's shop and restaurant
- The offer of tourist accommodation geared to new types of visitors (schools, groups, foreign tour operators...)

2. THE DECORATED CAVE OF PONT-D'ARC , a major site in the history of humanity

The discovery



© DRAC Rhône-Alpes - Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication

36 000 years ago, men and women created in the limestone walls of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, unique and overwhelming works frozen for eternity in its green calcite and clay.

This immense natural cathedral, untouched for tens of millennia, was discovered on 18 December 1994 in Ardèche, Vallon Pont d'Arc by three amateur cavers, Jean-Marie Chauvet, Eliette Brunel and Christian Hilaire. The unique and universal aspect of the cave is undeniable.

This jewel indeed presents three characteristics which are rarely combined: its age, the quality of its conservation and the wealth and abundance of artistic representations: 1,000 drawings of which 425 are animal figures. The bestiary of the cave with 14 different species represented, of which the majority are dangerous animals (cave-bears, woolly rhinoceros, mammoths, and big-cats, etc.), is unprecedented with some representations unique in Palaeolithic cave art (panther, owl, the lower part of the female body). This cave is a remarkably preserved treasure, an invaluable research subject for scientists worldwide.

Until its discovery, pre-historians and experts had designated Lascaux Cave (18 000 years old) as the artistic pinnacle of prehistoric rock art. But the Ardèche cave paintings, twice as old as those, have completely revolutionised our conceptions of the art of this period. Stone engraving or finger painting, by blowing pigments,



by impression of the palms of the hands, or by brush, drawings in charcoal or red ochre: all are techniques used by our ancestors in the service of graphic virtuosity that materializes through the use of the rock-surface relief, naturalism and shading. But also by the graphic narration, of hunting scenes, a rhinoceros fight, or the superimposition of successive images to express rhythm or movement.

The first artistic expression known to-date in the world, the cave is, and will in the years to come, be a source of inspiration for the greatest contemporary artists.

MILESTONES

- **36 000 ans**
First paintings on cave walls by the Aurignacian artists.
- **18 Decembre 1994**
The discovery of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc.
- **29 Decembre 1994**
Authentication of the works by Jean Clottes, General Inspector for Archaeology, international rock-art expert from UNESCO and ICOMOS.
- **13 October 1995**
Classification as an historical monument. Closure of the cave, accessible only to scientists and limited to two campaigns per year. The Cave is placed under permanent surveillance.
- **14 February 1997**
The French State becomes the owner of The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc.
- **Since May 1998**
First study conducted by a multidisciplinary scientific team led by Jean Clottes until 2006, and thereafter by Jean-Michel Geneste.
- **August 2007**
Creation of the Joint Association of The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc.
- **2008**
International architectural competition for the creation of The Cavern of Pont d'Arc.
- **November 2011**
Selection of the subcontractor for the operation of the site: Kléber Rossillon company associated with Sodexo Leisure.
- **12 October 2012**
Laying of the «first hand» of the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc by the Minister for Culture and Communication, Aurélie Filippetti.
- **24 January 2013**
France decides to present the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc to UNESCO.
- **22 June 2014**
The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- **25 April 2015**
Opening of THE CAVERN OF PONT-D'ARC.

The scientific team and conservation



© DRAC Rhône-Alpes - Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication

«This exceptional natural monument by its size, its diversity, its richness of species and the techniques of its works, presents a fabulously preserved repository» Jean-Michel Geneste, Scientific Research Team Director.

Following an international appeal for applications (unprecedented in the history of archaeological research), a team of scientists was appointed in 1998 to work in the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc. After 16 research seasons between 1995 and 2013, work in the painted cave du Pont d'Arc continues at the rate of two field missions per year which have taken place in March-April and October, bringing together thirty researchers and collaborators from the different disciplines involved. They study continuously and in detail, the different areas of the cave which, given its size, is not yet fully deciphered although in principle all the works have been identified.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE DECORATED CAVE OF PONT-D'ARC, KNOWN AS THE GROTTA CHAUVET

In recent years measurements have been taken in the Megaceros Gallery, the Skull Chamber and part of the End Chamber. At the same time, scientists have also made more in-depth studies of the works in the first chambers that are characterised by the predominance of traces of red ochre, in order to finalise the study for publication.

- Archeological soil studies.

Between 2002 and 2013, soil was excavated from very small areas in three sectors and the layers of human occupation hitherto buried, have been identified. These layers have revealed a few flint objects which indicate that men have largely frequented most of the cave. Skeletal remains and charcoal allowed this to be dated to around 36 000 years ago, which corresponds to the earliest black drawings in the cave.

The cave soils, so rich in various remains: coals, fireplaces, stone objects, and traces of both humans and animals are subject to complex studies by several research groups in both the Megaceros Gallery, the Skull Chamber as well as in archaeological surveys as at the foot of the red Megaceros in the Brunel Chamber.

- Research on the state of conservation of walls and physico-chemical characterisation of their changes represent a very significant part of research over the last decade.

The physico-chemical analysis of the walls and their taphonomy over time, has attracted the attention of specialists. This research confirmed that fires were made deep within areas of the cave and the resultant temperature rise was intense enough to cause the collapse of the rock walls. We know the location of some homes by the presence of large quantities of charcoal on the floor, we are now able to know their heating temperature and even their date. These results were published in the journal *Paléo* in 2013.

- Continuation of absolute dating programmes by various laboratories and teams.

The dating of the stalactites which have grown in the cave during periods of occupation by Man and Animals is a priority. They are used to correlate the growth of stalagmites, stages of animal and human occupation and climatic variations in the context of the establishment of the most complete and rigorous chronological framework which is based on independent and multidisciplinary approaches and not just on radiocarbon dating methods which date only certain human activities.

A major programme of dating by radiocarbon mass spectrometer will continue with micro-samples from the oldest and recently studied painted panels, especially those found deep in the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc.

Most radiocarbon laboratories in the world have participated in calibration programmes to check their equipment with charcoal from the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc.

- Palaeontological studies continue throughout the cave.

The wealth of the cave bones, essentially ursine, involves a concentrated programme of palaeontological analyses and different marks on the floors and walls. Palaeontologists are also closely involved in cross-disciplinary approaches with all archaeologists as well as publishing this unique research.

Genomic palaeontology studies have for years been focused on the study of wolves whose bone remains and droppings were found in the site.

The arrangement of the space in the vicinity of the decorated areas throughout the cave, numerous and difficult to access, are subject to careful review accompanied by a three-dimensional recording technique, since late 2010. These studies provide new ideas as to the often substantial development within the Pleistocene subterranean environment. They are less rare and more significant than it seemed at first in a number of other caves. The records of such events are ultimately numerous and well preserved in the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc. Several articles in French and International journals were published in 2012 and 2013 (*Paléo Antiquity*).

A publications programme comprising four works is underway, the first volume is expected in 2015.

THE TEAM OF RESEARCH SCIENTISTS

Director of Research

- **Jean-Michel Geneste** : rock art specialist, Director of Scientific Research of the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc since 2006.

Parietalists

- **Jean Clottes**: Director of Scientific Research for the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc known as Grotte Chauvet, 1998 to 2006. Chairman of the Joint Scientific Committee of the Joint Association of The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc, Heritage Curator, International Expert in rock art to UNESCO and ICOMOS and Honorary President of the French Prehistoric Society.
- **Dominique Baffier**: Prehistorian specialising in Palaeolithic cave art, Former Curator of the Grotte Chauvet Pont d'Arc.
- **Valérie Féruglio**: Specialist in rock-art
- **Carole Fritz**: Specialist in rock art, CNRS Laboratory Émile Cartailhac
- **Elisa Boche**: National Centre of Prehistory in Périgueux
- **Marc Azéma**: Specialist in cave art, Associate Researcher at the UMR 5608 CNRS, University of Toulouse-Le Mirail
- **Gilles Tosello**: Specialist in rock art, Laboratory Émile Cartailhac and Modelling Artist
- **Michel Fosse**: Paleontologist, Researcher at CNRS, University de Toulouse-Le Mirail
- **Bernard Gely**: Prehistorian EAS Archaeology of Rhône-Alpes
- **Yannick Le Guillou**: Specialist in rock art and Cartology

Geologists

- **Catherine Ferrier**: University of Bordeaux 1
- **Jean-Jacques Delannoy**: Laboratory Director, EDYTEM of the University of Savoy
- **Stéphane Jaillet**: Laboratory EDYTEM at the University of Savoy
- **Evelyne Debard**: University of Lyon 1
- **Dominique Genty**: Laboratory of Climate and Environmental Sciences, Saclay
- **Bertrand Kervazo**: National Centre for Prehistoric Périgueux

Biologist (DNA Specialist)

- **Jean-Marc Elalouf** : Institute of Biology and Technology, CEA –Saclay. Laboratory for Physio-Genomics, Gif-sur-Yvette.

CONSERVATION

Since its discovery, the French State, owner of the cave, has made conservation a priority. In order to avoid the mistakes made at Lascaux, a very strict preservation protocol was established.

Nature is respected and the cave protects itself! As soon as the outdoor temperature rises, it causes carbon dioxide and radon to be released in the cave. The Grotte Chauvet is only accessible for a few months a year: at the beginning of the year, from January to late April-early May and some years in October, November and December.

Monitoring and maintenance of the cave is assured by the Conservation Department at Creps Vallon Pont-d'Arc. This team is led by curator Mary Bardisa and depends on, and is funded by, the Ministry of Culture.

The decorated cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet inscribed in UNESCO's world heritage list



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Grotte ornée du Pont-d'Arc,
dite Grotte Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc, Ardèche
inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine
mondial en 2014

© DRAC Rhône-Alpes - Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication



*«When I saw the horses panel
for the first time, I felt the most
beautiful emotion of my life.
This was nothing scientific.
I realised that I was in front
of a great work of art.»*

Jean Clottes – Prehistorian

The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, a masterpiece of human creative genius, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 21 June, 2014. The classified site encompasses the entire cave, and also the setting of the surrounding natural landscape and hydrogeological catchment area of the cave, including the natural arch of the 54 metre high Pont d'Arc.

The UNESCO classification and the construction of the replica are closely connected and form the basis of a new regional, cultural and heritage politics. This project is unique to the world and important public funding is being invested for the benefit of the region.

3.

AROUND THE CAVERN OF PONT-D'ARC

Research in partnership with the musée du quai Branly

Prior to the opening of The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc, the musée du quai Branly and the Grand Project of the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc clenched a scientific partnership and presented to the public new, decentralised exhibitions. *CHASSES MAGIQUES*, where indigenous arts interacted with The Grotte Chauvet in the Ardèche, took place at the Château de Vogüé in Summer 2013, and *IMAGE'N MAGIE* was shown at the Castle-Museum of Tournon, Ardèche, during Summer 2014.

These two exhibitions were curated and produced by the musée du quai Branly in partnership with the Grand Project Cavern of Pont-d'Arc, with the support of the General Council of the Ardèche, the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes, the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the municipalities of Vogüé and Tournon.

| Publications and documentaries

Chauvet-Pont d'Arc

Le premier chef-d'œuvre de l'humanité révélé par la 3D

Published as The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, known as The Grotte Chauvet, was granted UNESCO World Heritage Site status, this book on mankind's first ever masterpiece to be recreated through 3D and prefaced by Aurélie Filippetti, unveils the secrets and beauty of prehistoric art. It tells the story of Chauvet-Pont d'Arc from its discovery in 1994 until its opening scheduled for 25 April 2015, when it is fully revealed to the public as The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc. Lavishly illustrated with images produced by 3D technology, this book takes the reader on an immersive journey into the universe of Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc, which is complemented by online multimedia content.

Text: Pedro Lima

Photography: Philippe Psaila

3D modelling: Guy Perazio

34.90 euros incl. VAT

Already available in bookstores

French and English versions

www.lepremierchefdoeuvre.com

This publication, originally initiated by Pascal Terrasse, President of the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc Grand Project, was supported by the General Council of the Ardèche and of the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes.

On the occasion of the public opening on 25 April 2015, Actes Sud are putting out three books on the cave's rebuilding work, in collaboration with Resolute (Eric Préau).

The first one is a large format coffee table book, which will share with the reader the adventure of the lucky few, whether scientists, historians, artists, architects, photographers or sculptors, who had the privilege to be part of this exceptional recreation project... With an introduction by Jean Clottes, one of the greatest prehistory experts and the most renowned specialist in parietal art, this lavishly illustrated book meticulously and emotionally retraces the different phases of the reconstruction work, from the concept of a replica to the reception of the very first visitors.

Introduction: Jean Clottes

Text: David Huguet

Photography: Stéphane Compoint

Editor: Éric Préau (Résolute)

Format: 22 x 28 cm

220 pages, 200 images

Hardback cover

Provisional price: 39 € incl. VAT

The second book stems from the coffee table version and provides a visual account of the key moments of the cave's recreation.

Introduction: Jean Clottes

Format: 22 x 28 cm

Text: David Huguet

48 pages, 50 images

Photography: Stéphane Compoint

Hardback cover

Editor: Éric Préau (Résolutive)

Provisional price: 10 € incl. VAT

The third one is a guide to The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc, which will assist visitors in their exploration of the cave's reproduction. This work is carried out in consultation with the Joint Association of The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc.

Format: 13 x 19 cm

Hardback cover

128 pages, 90 images

Provisional price: 15 € incl. VAT

Furthermore, Actes Sud publishes, in collaboration with Le Dauphiné Libéré, a book about the original cave by Jean Clottes who, with literary brilliance and an array of beautiful illustrations, tells the story of this major discovery which went on to be declared UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Format: 19,6 x 25,5 cm

Hardback cover

128 pages, 100 images

Provisional price: 29 € incl. VAT

Finally, a book aimed at children aged 6-9 and working as a docu-fiction, focuses on the representation of animals and daily life in prehistoric times.

Format: 16,5 x 24,5 cm

Hardback cover

48 pages

Provisional price: 12 € incl. VAT

ARTE also takes part in the opening of The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc with special programmes scheduled in April, including two hitherto unseen documentaries and a series of short films viewable on the ARTE Creative platform.

On ARTE | broadcast in April 2015

arte

LES GÉNIES DE LA GROTTÉ CHAUVET - broadcast on april 26, 2015 - 17:35

A documentary by Christian Tran; co-production: ARTE France, Quark (52 min)

Over a period of four years, artists and parietal art experts designed a gigantic replica of Grotte Chauvet's drawings and paintings. Christian Tran's documentary recounts this recreation process and follows the successive phases of this artistic endeavour, from the amazement of the first discovery to the final assembly.

QUAND HOMO-SAPIENS FAISAIT SON CINÉMA

A documentary by Pascal Cuissot and Marc Azéma; co-production: ARTE France, MC4 (2014, 53 min)

Using the discovery of a mysterious sandstone plate in a Basque Country grotto as a starting point, this documentary by Marc Azéma (a prehistory expert and member of Grotte Chauvet's scientific committee) sets out on the trail of prehistoric artists who, as it turns out, devised genuine animation techniques which seem to anticipate the invention of the camera, and hence of cinema itself.

On ARTE Creative | available online in april 20, 2015 on creative.arte.tv

arte CREATIVE

36 000 ans plus tard, dialogues graphiques avec les aurignaciens

STUDIO FOLIMAGE, 15X 1min

In this series of one-minute animated films, fifteen directors establish a dialogue with works of art coming from the depths of time.

Press contact:

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Culture and heritage in Ardèche: city of prehistory, Orgnac and the ancient site of Alba-la-Romaine



THE CITY OF PREHISTORY

This centre of modern and major national research offers an immersion into the world of our ancestors. Covering over 1400 m², the visitor-trail is organised into seven chronological sequences, from the Middle Palaeolithic to Early Iron Age (-350 000 to -750 years). With realistic soundscapes, striking visuals, object manipulation and the use of innovative interactive tables, the senses of visitors, young and old, are invited for a playful visit, strong in emotion.

Complementary to the future Discovery Centre of The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc, the City of Prehistory allows you to rediscover the actions of everyday life and to understand the beliefs of the time, through workshops such as flint-dressing or making a fire.

The Grand Site of Aven d'Orgnac - The Grotte and The City of Prehistory

07150 ORGNAC L'AVEN - Tel: +33 (0)4 75 38 65 10 - www.orgnac.com

MUSÉAL, THE DEPARTMENTAL MUSEUM-AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL-SITE OF ALBA-LA-ROMAINE

Opened in October 2013, this new departemental museum reveals and explains the findings from archaeological excavations that date from the early 19th century onwards, on the site of the capital of the Helvian Gauls.

MuséAl offers a complete experience for visitors. Inside, one part of the collections allows the visitor to imagine and to visualise the city long forgotten under the vines. Outside, the site itself is revealed, inviting them to explore the different areas that made the influential city of Alba described in ancient writings. Inside and out, everything is done to give to guide the visitor, through reading and understanding as they progress through.

The permanent exhibition presents the collections from the site excavations and allows us to understand the ancient city. It includes a selection of objects archaeological accompanied by texts, images and scenography grouped into three thematic blocks. Interactive screens show three-dimensional reconstructions of the city in ancient times.

Currently, the statue of the emperor is not on display at the museum. It will be back soon and presented in the vertical.



Quartier Saint Pierre - 07400 Alba-la-Romaine - Tel: +33 (0)4 75 52 45 15 - Mail: museal@ardeche.fr

The Ardèche, land of variety



© Jean Clottes - Ministère de la Culture

IDENTITY CARD

Located in south-eastern France, Ardèche is one of eight departments of the Rhône-Alpes region. The Rhône serves as a natural border along 135 km. Between Auvergne and Provence, continental and Mediterranean influences, benefits the Ardèche climate and its vegetation.

Area: 5529 km², including 172 000 ha of forests (31% of the department).

Highest point: Mount Mzenc 1 754 m

Population: 327 000 inhabitants and a density of 58 inhabitants/km²

Ardèche, a whole universe in three syllables.

Here, the names resonate with the promise of unique moments. In towns and villages such as Privas, the prefecture, but also in Annonay, Aubenas, Vogüé or Balazuc... this region is historical, architectural, a legacy.

The Ardèche offers a rich variety of history and traditions, of nature and men tormented by passion, talent and desire. As proof of this, those who lived here 36,000 years ago, bequeathed it one of its greatest treasures: The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc known as Grotte Chauvet. In laying the foundations of art, they have made this department a source of inspiration for many contemporary artists and have given the Ardèche a taste of exclusivity and excellence.

19 charming villages

Picturesque villages basking in the sun, dressed in their medieval stone, playing tag in the mountains or snuggling in the valleys...

The country of art and history in southern Vivarais, a unique brand in Ardèche

From the dolmens of Forest of Laoul to the ancient site of Alba-la-Romaine. From the Abbey of Cruas to the fortified royal town of Villeneuve-de-Berg. Not forgetting the buildings of Viviers, the romanesque church of Larnas, the Cité Lafarge... the region is rich with nearly 80 protected monuments.

34 sites of architectural heritage, caves, wildlife parks, and archaeological sites, places of remembrance and history of artisanal and industrial know-how, combined together as recreation and heritage. Two opened their doors in 2013 and 2014: **The City of Prehistory in Orgnac, 350,000 years of history, and the MuséAl museum on the ancient site of Alba-la-Romaine.**

Creative places and extraordinary festivals and shows like The Cascade at Bourg St Andéol whose festival takes place on the ancient site of Alba, "Labeaume en Musiques", and «Quelques p'Arts ... le SOAR», at the Centre national des Arts de la Rue.



COMING EN ARDÈCHE

By train: Valence TGV (or Valence town), Montélimar, Avignon, Le Puy-en-Velay, Langogne, La Bastide-Puylaurent, Villefort, Alès.

By car: **Motorway A7**, exits: Chanas, Tain-l'Hermitage, Valence North, Valence South, Loriol, Montélimar North, Montélimar South, Bollène.

Motorway A10/A71: direction Clermont-Ferrand and then the National 102, Le Puy/Aubenas.

By bus: Find the schedules of all regular bus-lines on the website : www.lesept.fr

By plane: Airports: Lyon St Exupéry, Nîmes, Avignon, Grenoble

Tourism Development Agency of the Ardèche

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Thanks to the variety of supply and of the territory, culture can be consumed all year-round and throughout the region of Rhône-Alpes!



La Cité du Design © Rhone-Alpes Tourisme - J.L. Rigaux



Vieux Lyon La Tour Rose © Rhone-Alpes Tourisme

The Rhône-Alpes region of France, has the largest number of museums after Île-de-France, over 200 in all, ranging from ethnographic museums to contemporary art museums in the cities of Lyon, Saint-Etienne, Grenoble, Chambéry and Valence...

108 of **these cultural sites** attract more than 10,000 visitors annually - a total of more than 4.2 million visitors in 2010.

The top-three cultural sites in 2011: Le Musée des Beaux Arts of Lyons with 267,566 paying visitors, Le Musée de Grenoble with 256,154 and the Institut Lumière in Lyons with 251,274 paid admissions.

Culture is not just limited to museums in Rhône-Alpes but includes a variety of places such as chateaux (e.g. the Chateaux of Grignan and Vogüé...) and remarkable architectural sites (Le Corbusier in Firminy-Saint-Etienne, the quartier Tony Garnier in Lyon, ...) and also the homes of famous men (Rousseau's house at Les Charmettes in Chambéry, and Voltaire's chateau at Ferney).

A region steeped in history... and constantly developing: prehistoric remains are significant in the dawning of the 21st century, Rhône-Alpes is proud of its historical heritage.

The discovery in 1994 of the Decorated Cave of Pont d'Arc in Ardèche, has allowed us to date Man's first traces in the region, to some 31 000 years ago. The opening of the cave replica, The Cavern of Pont d'Arc, is scheduled for spring 2015. Thirteen other caves open to the public also exist in the Ardèche Gorges, revealing the region to have been a major centre of Palaeolithic art. More recent Neolithic remains, dating back only 5000 years, were discovered in villages around Lake Annecy and Lake Bourget!

Rhône-Alpes has remarkable gallo-roman relics, and they can be admired in both Vienne, and Lyon, with its large Gallo-Roman theatre ruins on the hill at Fourvière. With its rich commercial and industrial past, spanning more than two millennia, Lyon inherited a remarkable historical heritage. The Vieux-Lyon and Croix-Rousse neighbourhoods reveal the architectural heritage of Renaissance silk manufacture and its merchants - Lyon was classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in a large-part due to its wealth of renaissance buildings. As for Saint-Étienne, a fine example of a bourgeois industrial city, it managed its transformation, notably by winning the «UNESCO Creative City» label and through its creation of the Cité du Design.

The region also benefits from an important religious heritage with l'Abbaye de Hautecombe, le Monastère de Brou, and la Basilique de Fourvière in Lyons...

Rhône-Alpes is also a land of cinema with the flagship Institut Lumière and the grand Lumière Festival...

A region that is alive with many events that pepper the calendar: there are many different and varied festivals from classical to electro-music, theatre, and dance (Festivals such as Nuits de Fourvière, Jazz à Vienne, Nuits Sonores) and many biennial ones (la biennale de La danse et de l'art contemporain, la biennale du design...).



Grignan et son château © F. Da costa CDT26

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: www.rhonealpes-tourisme.com

Twitter account: https://twitter.com/Culture_RA

Rhône-Alpes TV channel Culture: <http://culture.rhonealpes.tv>

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4. Appendices

Partners

THE GRAND RHÔNE-ALPES PROJECT

The Regional Council is committed via the Grand Project Rhône-Alpes programme. This contractual procedure is conducted in partnership with four other communities: Region of southern Ardèche, the Regional Natural Park of Monts d'Ardèche, the Association of the Gorges of Ardèche and the General Council of the Ardèche.

In this way, the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc becomes a development opportunity, whereby businesses and communities can benefit from their association of the themes linked to earliest images of mankind.

25 million Euros have been set aside to support regional development, including:

- stimulating the development of new economic activities based around 3D imaging
- developing higher education and research activities related to the Decorated Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave, by means of the creation of a research centre for natural caves and the underground world
- supporting innovative actions on local production by providing better opportunities
- encouragement and support for the implementation of new modes of transport.

The regional and departmental policies regarding The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, have played a role in the UNESCO classification, in that: *«A number of cooperation projects have been undertaken with or by other institutions to support their management efforts. The Rhône-Alpes region is an important partner in The Grand Project of Grotte Chauvet (Rhône-Alpes Grand Project «Grotte Chauvet»), which is devoted to the management of the cave in the broader context of regional factors relevant to the development, transportation, cultural activities and tourism. The department of Ardèche also participated in these efforts by providing resources.»*

MODEL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP ON THE THEME OF UNDERGROUND ENVIRONMENTS

The Regional Council, Rhône-Alpes and the General Council for the Ardèche wished to rely on its university partners for the Grand Cavern of Pont-d'Arc Project. The success of the construction of the largest decorated cave replica in the world and UNESCO nomination require specific skills, coming directly from expert laboratories that are the leaders in their fields. So a university partnership was implemented together with the University of Savoy and its EDYTEM laboratory. Expert in underground environments, this laboratory led by Jean-Jacques Delannoy (geologist member of the scientific team for the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc) is uniquely qualified to develop research around the cave.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE GROTTES CHAUVET

The French State, the Rhône-Alpes Region and the Department of Ardèche wanted to protect The Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc by closing it to the public and by creating and handing over the Cavern of Pont-d'Arc.

In this context, Pascal Terrasse, then President of the General Council of the Ardèche, and Jean-Jack Queyranne, President of the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes, wanted to create the *Association of Friends for the Development of the Grotte Chauvet - Pont d'Arc in Ardèche*, and requested Marc Ladreit of Lacharrière, member of the Institute, to preside.

The purpose of this Association is to highlight the cave culturally, to support its national and international reputation, and to support its candidacy for inclusion as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It therefore seeks to act in France and abroad, in order to promote the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc, to allow this heritage to humanity to be handed down and to support any initiative to enhance its reputation.

Key project partner

Client: Joint Association of The Cavern of The Pont-d'Arc

Project Management

Architects: Fabre Speller, Atelier 3A

Replica Scenography: Scène, Paris

Landscaping: Franck Neau, Paris

Discovery Centre Scenography: Tempora, Brussels

Design Office: Girus, Lyon

OPC: Global, Lyon

Companies in charge of the replica

3D Technical Overview, 3D modelling, Coordination and technical direction: Socra-Campenon Bernard Régions (Vinci Construction France)

Metal shell structure and geological sculpture: Freyssinet France-Cofex régions- Atelier Artistique du Béton (AAB)

Parietal panels: Arc et Os Création Graphique, Déco Diffusion

Speleothems: Phénomènes

Bones: Cossima Production-Dasplet

Updating digital model: Cabinet Perazio Freyssinet-Cofex-AAB, Campenon Bernard Regions

Scientific Support

International Scientific Committee: President: Jean Clottes

Research Team, original cave: Director: Jean-Michel Geneste

Scientific delegates (construction monitoring): Jean-Michel Geneste, Archaeologist, Jean-Jacques Delannoy, Geomorphologist, Philippe Fosse, Palaeontologist

Scientific partnership: Edytem Laboratory, University of Savoie

Construction Companies

Earthmoving: Laurens - Chandolas / **Co-contractors:** SATP/Sacer

Structural work: Berthouly – Montélimar / **Co-contractors:** Rivasi BTP/ Mira Charmasson

Steelwork: Cabrol - Mazamet

Structural wood framing: Moulin, Aubenas

Sanitary plumbing: Fourel, Sauzet

Heating and ventilation: Chaussabel, Ucel

Electricity CFA : CFO – VDI – SSI : Sneff , Aubenas

Cover sealing: Smac, Privas

External joinery: Zancanaro - Charmes-sur-Rhône

Metalwork: Giraud Delay - Alissas / **Co-contractor:** Andriollo

Internal joinery: Gero - Aubenas / **Co-contractor:** Chazalon

Hardfloor coverings: Tiles Sportiello, Chateauneuf

The Discovery Centre

Coordination and scenography: Tempora

Sets, reconstructions and replicas: Atelier ADESS

Scenographic arrangements: GL Events

Graphic design: IDWIW

Supply and installation of lighting equipment: Snef

Audio-visual/multimedia production: Anamnesia/Kaléo

Supply and installation of audio-visual/multimedia equipment: GL Events

Key project partner

THE ARCHITECTS FABRE-SPELLER

The firm Fabre / Speller has built major public facilities for 25 years. Based in Clermont Ferrand, it has undertaken several original and often-remarked buildings: the complete renovation of the historic Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, the Arts Centre of the Creux de l'Enfer in Thiers, the Arts Centre in Vassivière with Aldo Rossi, the Theatre of Salins in Martigues, the Mathematics Laboratories of the Faculty of Nice, the Dôle Library, the Theatre of the Cité Internationale.

For this project, Xavier Fabre and Vincent Speller's teams rely on the Ardèche firm Atelier 3A from Teil and the company Scène for the coordination of the replica.

Scène is a consulting firm specialising in the design, building and restoration of cultural facilities. In order to design the best space for a presentation, it is specifically involved in the field of scenography, especially in terms of equipment, exhibitions and shows. Whatever scenography and museography, Scène works, since its beginning in 1988, on projects in theatres, opera-halls, convention centres and museums.

PHÉNOMÈNES

The Phénomènes teams recreate geological phenomena called speleothems such as those found in the Decorated Cave of the Pont-d'Arc. These remarkable structures are made up of calcite crystals deposited by the flow of calcium carbonate-laden water. They can take many forms such as draperies, stalagmites, stalactites, gourds, large concretions, pendants and fistula. These elements are found all along the length of the visit of The Cavern of Pont-d'Arc. Phénomènes has 20 years of experience in solving the artistic and modelling problems, as well as the technical and scientific issues in the fields of new materials, their forming and their implementation by providing services for research, creation and production.

ALAIN DALIS - ARC ET OS

Based around Alain Dalis, the Arc et Os team consists of ten modelling-artists. In their workshop at Montignac in Dordogne, 27 parietal panels with paintings and engravings of the Chauvet Cave are drawn to full-scale. Native to Montignac, Alain Dalis attended the School of Fine Arts in Bordeaux. After having been a guide at Lascaux 2, he worked with Renaud Sanson and Monique Peytral in the restoration of reproduction paintings. He then worked on the replica Niaux caves and Marsoulas, for various national museums and on fantasy creatures for Futuroscope in Poitiers. For 20 years, he has developed innovative reproduction techniques.

GILLES TOSELLO - GRAPHIC DESIGN

Qualified in graphic arts, and Doctor of Prehistory, Gilles Tosello's research focuses on Palaeolithic art (PhD thesis, from the University of Paris I, published in 2003). He works in two major decorated caves in the Pyrenees: Le Tuc d'Audoubert and Marsoulas (14 to 15 000 years BP). Gilles Tosello is particularly interested in the formal and stylistic analysis of Palaeolithic art. By comparing the formal data, geographic distribution and chronology, he has managed to define a human geography of the European Upper Paleolithic period. In his workshop in Toulouse, the modeller and prehistorian is recreating the famous charcoal painting of 44 m² Horse Panel including 50 figures and the large lions fresco (70 m²).

DÉCO DIFFUSION (transport, packaging and parietal wall panels)

Déco Diffusion is a workshop specialising in the design and manufacture of decoration and scenery, for film-sets, theatre, television and museums. Founded in 1989 in Toulouse, approved and certified, Déco Diffusion employs many professional artists specialised in the techniques of trompe l'oeil, fresco, patina, molding and polystyrene sculpture. It has over 1 000 m² of workshops and technicians responsible for moving scenery.

GROUPEMENT FREYSSINET-COFEX-AAB (structure, scenery, concrete)

Freyssinet France is a company in the field of repair and construction of buildings, and civil engineering works. A subsidiary of the Vinci Group. Certified according to ISO 9001, it works mostly in structural repairs and conservation, and renovation and repair of buildings. With a Design and Methods department and a Centre for technical R&D, expertise has been at the heart of its activities for more than 70 years.

Cofex Littoral has developed as a versatile civil engineering company operating throughout France. It is part of the VINCI Group, based in Toulouse, which has developed since 1950. Globally integrated in concessions-construction, it specialises in civil engineering, underground works, rivers and geotechnical works.

For over 20 years the company AAB, has specialised in scenery and themed facades, the manufacture of architectural installations for amusement parks, zoos, artworks and historical monuments. Its uniqueness lies in the two types of original processes it has developed: on one hand projection and sculpture directly onto a galvanized steel frame to reproduce all types of relief: rocks, earth, stone facades, brick ... and reproduction by molding reconstituted stone into fake dressed stone, corniches, columns and moldings.

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