

Historical Costumes Exhibitions

2000 years of fashion evolution



LA DAME D'ATOURS





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ABOUT LA DAME D'ATOURS

Historian and costume designer, Nathalie Harran founded LA DAME D'ATOURS in 1999, a craftsmanship company ("Métiers d'Art"), dedicated to the study, reconstruction and preservation of ancient fashions. She is also the author of several books on the history of fashion.

LA DAME D'ATOURS was awarded the "Living Heritage Company" label in 2017, an acknowledgement of its rare know-how in the field of clothing design and of the company's important heritage: historical clothing and accessories, documentary sources, tools, old materials, etc.

OUR COSTUMES COLLECTION

La Dame d'Atours owns a rich collection of several hundreds of costumes and accessories, recreated according to historical documents (texts, museum pieces, various iconographies ...), which enable us to approach the history of fashion from the Antiquity to the 1930s.

La Dame d'Atours can also show its own collection of authentic clothing and accessories, dating back from the 18th century to the 1930's.

An artisanal know-how

At each step of the conception process, we use the savoir-faire of the french fashion traditions:

- ➡ design of the patterns, assembly according to ancient techniques or coming from the corsetry.
- ➡ textiles chosen to be as authentic as possible. They are submitted to various refinements: vegetable dyes, pleating, quilting, etc.
- ➡ use of old materials: fabrics, lace (eg. Chantilly or Valenciennes lace), jet pearls and sequins, trimmings, etc.
- ➡ ornamental decoration using various techniques such as braided, woven or knotted trimmings, buttons made from beads or moulds. Embroidery and beading are also essential for the embellishment of costumes.

THE EXHIBITIONS

We organize exhibitions which are cultural and educational, immersive and playful. We present Fashion with a historical and a societal approach. Our exhibitions are suitable for all audiences, including schools.

The exhibition themes

A historical approach: by exhibiting costumes, we can address in a concrete way, the lifestyles and mentalities of a certain time period, the historical context, the artistic movements. For example: The Renaissance, the Art Nouveau...

A thematic approach: we choose themes related to the news of the museums, the cities, today's society. For example: Silhouette and fashion tricks, Women in society, Beauty rituals, Floral art and Fashion, etc...

A technical approach: materials, weaving, dyeing, cutting, ornamenting are explained using samples, illustrated documents and tools. The rise of manufacturing, the evolution of Fashion are explained in our exhibitions "From the hand to machine" or "The origin of the Department Stores".

The content of the exhibitions

We design a visitor journey mapping for your monument, your venue. Costumes and accessories are displayed to tell the story of the place, a time, to evoke personalities who lived there or structure a theme.

Explanations are provided on notice boards or/and in an illustrated tour booklet. A stock of photos is available for this purpose and can be used also for communication.

Exhibition terms: a quotation is established on request, according to the number of mannequins, the length of the exhibition as well as the options chosen.

The technical conditions: the exhibitions are all-inclusive, we take care of the modeling, the installation, the transport and the dismantling.

Authentic pieces can be exhibited when the technical conditions for their preservation are fulfilled (brightness adjustable to 50 lux and distancing required).



Normandy Impressionist Festival,
Museum Corderie Vallois Rouen



Eugénie, empress of fashion, Castle of Pierrefond



Knight and Gentel Lady, Castle of Blandy-les-Tours

Josephine empress of fashion, Castle of Malmaison



Royal Castle of Blois



Fashion and beauty in gallo-roman period



Antic period in museum of Aregenua



Long live the bride, Castle of Champs-sur-Marne



Elegance, from Belle Epoque to the roaring twenties, Castle of Champs-sur-Marne





EXHIBITION TOPICS

The periods of History:

- Gallo-Roman Antiquity
- The Middle Ages
- The Renaissance
- The 17th century, Louis XIV and Versailles.
- The 18th century
- Napoleonic period
- Eugenie, empress of fashion
- Fashion at the time of Queen Victoria
- The Belle Epoque
- The Roaring Twenties...

Some examples of themes covered:

- Wedding dresses through History
- Art Nouveau influences
- Fashion accessories
- Fashion and sports
- Fashion at the French Court
- Floral Art and Fashion
- Silhouettes: underwear and fashion tricks
- The Queens of Fashion
- The Leisure and the seaside
- The industrial revolution and fashion
- The origin of the Department stores
- Pioneers and women of influence
- Women in the 18th century, ...



To give another dimension to the exhibition

The scenography: in an empty monument, a contemporary hall, we can design a staging with decors, create a scenery, flaggings and immerse visitors in History ... We offer also a fun area dedicated to taking photos.

We regularly work with Patrick Dallanegra, artist and historical illustrator, to ensure the graphic part of the exhibitions as well as the scenography.

Sensory discovery: using all our senses to learn, understand in a playful way... We design Experiment tables to discover scents, fabrics, materials... The History at your fingertips.

QR code systems: accessing to deeper level of explanations, suggesting another level of reading (information, quizz, photos, etc...). It is a digital tool that can be used by all public easily.

Mediation (museum activities): we can provide you with various activity tools such as a chest with costumes, school kits, as well as conferences and workshops.

HISTORICAL COSTUMES MADE-TO-ORDER

Historical reproduction: we create reproductions of costumes or accessories based on old documents (paintings, photos, engravings) to enrich the permanent tour visit of a site.

For Mediation (cultural activities): the costume and its accessories, adult or child size, can be used by cultural mediators during their workshops.

THEY TRUST US

- ➡ Center of National Monuments (who manages more than a 100 monuments owned by the French State):
Castle of Pierrefonds, Castle of Champs-sur-Marne, Castle of Bussy-Rabutin, La Villa Kérylos, le Fort de Salses
- ➡ Castle of Langeais (Institut de France)
- ➡ National Museums: Musée d'Orsay, Castle of Malmaison, National Archives
- ➡ Regional museums: Castle of Hardelot, Castle of Blandy-les-Tours, , Castle of Lunéville,
Castle of Maintenon, Castle of Chavagniac-Lafayette, Cité royale of Loches...
- ➡ Masséna Palace (Nice), Royal Castle of Blois, Museum Corderie Vallois, Museum Villa Montebello (Trouville),
Palace of Arts (Dinard), Castle of Tarascon, King of Rome Palace (Rambouillet), Vichy's Opera center,
Fabre Museum (Montpellier)...
- ➡ Archaeological museums: Vieux-la-Romaine, Gisacum (le Vieil-Evreux), Ambrussum (Pays de Lunel)...
- ➡ In other countries : Castle of Kuskovo (Moscou), Napoleon museum Arenenberg (Switzerland),
Castle of Ismaning (Germany).

Elisabeth d'Autriche by F. Clouet, circa 1570



Emilie Flöge and Wiener Secession, c. 1900



Too early, James Tissot, 1873



Empress Eugénie and her ladies-in-waiting, F.X. Winterhalter, 1855



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