

MG

MUSÉE GRANET  
AIX-EN-PROVENCE

29 APRIL ➤  
28 AUGUST  
2022



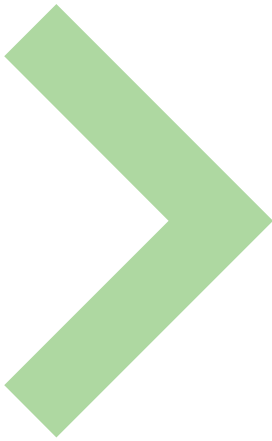
# PLOSSU-GRANET ITALIA DISCRETA

MUSÉE GRANET  
AIX-EN-PROVENCE



[museegranet-aixenprovence.fr](http://museegranet-aixenprovence.fr)

PRESS  
PACK



## SUNSHINE AND MELANCHOLY: A SHARED INHERITANCE

This season, the Musée Granet invites us to embark on an enjoyable – and well-deserved! – journey to Rome.

Aix is a Roman city; it owes its existence to the Città Eterna's civilising and all-conquering mission. The first Roman foundation in Gaul, Aquae Sextiae has always looked back to its origins with a certain nostalgia and maintained close ties with Roman culture and Italy throughout its history.

There are many clues to this past: La Via Aurealia, now rue de l'Italie (!), one of the busiest streets in Aix, is an obvious one; in the early Renaissance period, Roy René was both Count of Provence and King of Naples and Sicily; and the city has continued to enjoy strong trading, artistic, cultural links with Italy.

Other signs of this filiation – an intimate and penetrating connection – can be found in the local lifestyle, the organisation of the city and the surrounding countryside, its easy-going nature, and its love of elegance and harmony.

Aix native and painter François-Marius Granet was both inspired and fascinated by Rome and Italy, and indeed spent several years of his life there. The museum named in his honour naturally has an extensive collection of his works, many of which reflect our kinship with this radiant country that, across the centuries and through its ideas and creators, is the source and guiding light of all we hold most dear.

Photographer Bernard Plossu is also familiar with the streets of Rome, having followed in the footsteps of François-Marius Granet in a bid to rediscover this “nostalgic ode to the dazzling splendour of Rome,” as the writer Bruno Racine described *Adieu to Italy* by Granet.

Although born a century and a half later, this contemporary photographer shares the Romantic painter's love of Rome and Italy, its squares and streets steeped in history, its timeless landscapes, their solitude and plenitude, and their tranquil, even blasé relationship with the eternal.

A few years ago, in this same museum, I was struck by La Montagne Blanche, Bernard Plossu's vision of Mont Sainte-Victoire and – in his framing and motifs and his reproduction of light and shade as form and relief – his obvious interest in the work of François-Marius Granet. It is wonderful to see this major photographer renew his dialogue with Granet in such a poetic and melancholic way that seems to go to the heart of his work. His photographic prints – some in black and white, others exceptionally tinted with the warm, fleeting hues of Fresson prints – provide a fitting response to Granet's watercolours and wash drawings.

I believe that both artists, like Stendhal, judge the beauty of things through the emotions they feel. The Italy of Granet and Plossu is discreet, private and universal, sober and timeless, and needs nothing or very little to dazzle and enthrall the traveller in search of meaning – whether painters, photographers or simple onlookers captivated by these works in their turn.

The fruit of this shared inspiration, this unassuming Italian dialogue, is radical in its outline, radiant and melancholy, and quite simply superb.

**Sophie JOISSAINS**

*Mayor of Aix-en-Provence*

*Metropolitan Councillor of the Métropole Aix-Marseille Provence*

*Vice-Chair of the Région Provence Alpes-Côte-d'Azur*



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## PRESS RELEASE

### PLOSSU - GRANET, ITALIA DISCRETA 29 APRIL AU 28 AUGUST 2022

An exhibition of photographs taken in Italy by the artist Bernard Plossu (1945-) will be presented at the Musée Granet from 29 April to 28 August 2022.

#### Granet and Plossu: a shared passion for Rome and Italy

The show will feature some one hundred photographs, most never shown in public before, spanning the late nineteenth seventies to 2017.

Although the artist is best known since 1965 for working almost exclusively in black and white, he has experimented with colour during his travels, employing the Fresson colour pigment print process invented in 1967. Around twenty of these world-renowned matte carbon prints with their faded, granular and soft, quasi-powdery quality will be presented at the show, almost for the first time.

**These photographs will be displayed alongside sixty or so views of Rome and its environs produced as washes, watercolours and drawings by a painter strongly associated with the City of Aix, François-Marius Granet (1775-1849), in the first half of the 19th century.**

These artists favoured **the same themes and shared the same interest in Rome and Italy**, its narrow streets steeped in history, culture and memory, and its urban and natural landscapes frozen in time and imbued with solitude. The use of chiaroscuro washes by Granet to create effects of light and shade, and silver halide photography by Plossu, in addition to framing and motifs, **reveal the power of this classic - and, over the centuries, archetypal - theme.** The exhibition itself explores three subjects: **landscapes and vedute, Plossu and the Fresson process, and Rome.**

The show also continues a dialogue begun in 2012 with the work of Bernard Plossu, which has particular resonance for the Musée Granet - his work on the theme of Mont Sainte-Victoire provided the foundation for *La Montagne blanche*, an exhibition presented at the Musée Granet from October to December 2012. Editions Filigranes will publish a richly illustrated catalogue to coincide with the Plossu-Granet-Italia discreta show.

In partnership with the Rencontres Photographiques d'Arles.

**GRAND ARLES  
EXPRESS 2022**  
LES RENCONTRES  
DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

#### Exhibition curators:

Bernard Plossu, Paméla Grimaud, curator,  
and Bruno Ely, head curator and director of the Musée Granet.

## CONTACTS

Local and regional press

#### MUSÉE GRANET

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13100 Aix-en-Provence

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## 2022 A ROMAN SEASON AT THE MUSÉE GRANET

This exhibition is part of a season devoted to Rome and Italy more generally. From 11 June to 2 October 2022, the Musée Granet will present, in partnership with the **Neue Pinakothek in Munich**, a display of works by German painters working in Rome in the 19th century, at a time when the city was attracting an increasing number of European artists.

As well as paintings, the exhibition will feature photographs of the city and its famous or more discreet monuments and landscapes between 1840 and 1870.





**FRANÇOIS-MARIUS GRANET,**

*View of the Santa Scolastica torrent from the San Benedetto Subaico trail,*  
watercolour and brown ink on paper, 21.1 cm x 28 cm, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence, 849.1.G.664.  
Photograph by Claude Almodovar © musée Granet, ville d'Aix-en-Provence



**BERNARD PLOSSU,**

*Barga, Tuscany, 2009,*  
Fresson process print, 18.4 x 27.4 cm, private collection

## THE EXHIBITION: ROOM BY ROOM

### ROMA DISCRETA THROUGH THE EYES OF GRANET AND PLOSSU

**Granet and Plossu: a shared passion for Rome and Italy.**

The show will feature some one hundred photographs, most never shown in public before, spanning the late nineteen seventies to 2017.

Although the artist is best known since 1965 for working almost exclusively in black and white, he has experimented with colour during his travels, employing the Fresson colour pigment print process invented in 1967. These world-renowned matte carbon prints give the photographs a faded, granular and soft, quasi-powdery quality.

Some twenty Fresso prints, almost never displayed in public before, will be presented at the show.

These photographs will be displayed alongside sixty or so views of Rome and its environs produced as washes, watercolours and drawings by a painter strongly associated with the City of Aix, François-Marius Granet (1775-1849), in the first half of the 19th century.

Both artists favoured the same themes and shared the same interest in Rome and Italy, its narrow streets steeped in history, culture and memory, and its urban and natural landscapes frozen in time and imbued with solitude.

The use of chiaroscuro washes by Granet to create effects of light and shade, and silver halide photography by Plossu, in addition to framing and motifs, reveal the power of this classic - and, over the centuries, archetypal - theme.

The exhibition itself explores three subjects: landscapes and vedute, Plossu and the Fresson process, and Rome.

### INTRODUCTION: MEETING POINTS

Frascati and the Villa Aldobrandini, Subiaco, Tivoli, Rocca di Papa and Caprarola are among the sites visited by François-Marius Granet around Rome, where he lived for almost 30 years, from 1802 to 1824 and then from 1829 to 1830, and which shed light on his interest in discovery and exploration.

Photographer and walker Bernard Plossu enjoyed a similar experience, crossing the Alps to the Genoese coastline and over several islands to Sovana, Lucca, Florence, Sienna and Pitigliano in Tuscany and then Rome.



## SECTION 1 LANDSCAPES AND VEDUTE

These meeting points go beyond geography and place to include motifs in architecture and the landscape – such as a stairway, the aspect of a porch, or a line of pine trees – and a play on light, shade and mood in which humans rarely figure, to compose an inner landscape travelled along uncharted routes.

Both in Rome and the countryside around the city, the sober vision shared by the two artists in representing and capturing their subjects reveals the essence of the motifs observed. They perceive reality through primitive eyes while remaining attentive to the historic significance of monuments, bringing an interior light to the surface. Granet and Plossu depict medieval fortresses, crenelated towers, aqueducts, convents and belltowers in a soft, delicate manner that gives their landscapes a timeless aspect.



**FRANÇOIS-MARIUS GRANET,**  
*Ruins on the road to Civitavecchia,*

Brown and grey wash on paper,  
13.2 cm x 10.8 cm,  
Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence,  
849.1.G.1137.  
Photograph by Claude Almodovar  
© musée Granet, ville d'Aix-en-Provence

**BERNARD PLOSSU,**

*Pitigliano, 2009,*  
black and white silver halide print,  
26.7 cm x 17.6 cm,  
private collection





**FRANÇOIS-MARIUS GRANET,**

View of the monastery of the Capuchins and the tree of San Felice in Tivoli,  
brown and grey wash and graphite pencil on paper, 21.2 cm x 15 cm, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence, 849.1.G.594.  
Photograph by Claude Almodovar © musée Granet, ville d'Aix-en-Provence





**BERNARD PLOSSU,**  
*Florence, 1993,*  
black and white silver halide print, 11.9 cm x 7.9 cm, private collection

**FRANÇOIS-MARIUS  
GRANET,**

*View of the Porta San  
Paolo in Rome,  
brown and grey  
wash and graphite  
pencil on paper,  
21.2 cm x 28.1 cm,  
Musée Granet,  
Aix-en-Provence,  
849.1.G.674.  
Photograph by  
Claude Almodovar ©  
musée Granet, ville  
d'Aix-en-Provence*



**SECTION 2  
ROMA CITTÀ**

The rich and complex historical strata of Rome – ancient, papal and modern – are depicted as subjects and perspectives in an urban landscape on the cusp of life. The gateways and inner courtyards of palaces open up to us, the world goes about its business, and monuments are caught in the present moment, inviting us to contemplate them as we idle by. Far from the topographical views and whimsical meditations of Hubert Robert, the compositions of Panini or Piranesi, or the fantastical views Fragonard at the Villa d'Este, Rome as seen through the eye of Granet is revealed in the detailed immediacy of a drawing done in the open air, filling page after page of his sketch book.

We sense the same humility in the work of Plossu. The decayed splendours of the city are eclipsed by the newfound purity of chiaroscuro ruins, in a vision that explores the anatomy of the urban landscape without excessive realism. The photographer opens up viewpoints and perspectives, enabling us to see beyond the monuments themselves.

**BERNARD PLOSSU,**

*Rome, 1999,  
7.7 cm x 11.7 cm,  
black and white  
silver halide print,  
private collection*







**FRANÇOIS-MARIUS GRANET,**

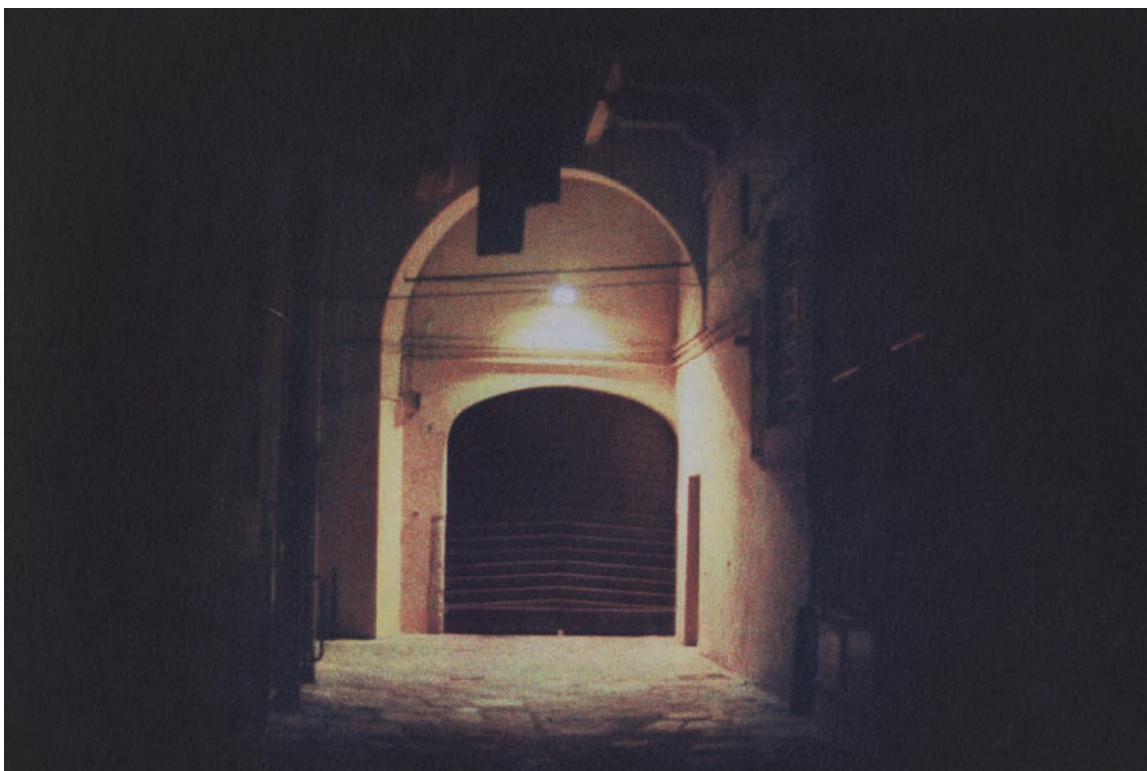
*Courtyard interior,*

Tivoli, brown wash, watercolour highlights and brown ink on paper, 28.2 cm x 21 cm, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence, 849.1.G.680. Photograph by Claude Almodovar © musée Granet, ville d'Aix-en-Provence

### SECTION 3

#### **PLOSSU AND THE FRESSON PROCESS: A MODERN VISION OF COLOUR**

Writing to his mother in 1810, Granet describes a “city in the country” in paint and words: “I am going to visit different areas of the city. There are so many remarkable things, ancient and modern, that it would take years to really know it. The mix of ruins, trees and plants has a highly gracious effect, making all the more impressive these beautiful remains [with a] [...] picturesque aspect.” He studied the light and paid close attention to colour, as seen in his small oil paintings and some of his watercolours and brown washes, which he intensified by indicating the addition of tone, like photographic effects. The attention he pays to certain motifs - factories going up in the suburbs of 19th-century Rome, the skin of decaying walls under diffuse haloes of light, ruins and pathways overgrown with weeds - add to this “paintable” aspect sought by Granet. Bernard Plossu, who has always worked in black and white, offers a modern vision of colour prints, but with the same ambiance as his monochrome works. Produced using the Fresson four-colour direct carbon print process, these photographs have “mattitude” and an unmistakably modern appearance.



**BERNARD PLOSSU,**

*Lucca, 2009,*  
Fresson process print, 19.2 cm x 30.5 cm, private collection





**FRANÇOIS-MARIUS GRANET**, *Factories in Toscanella*,  
brown wash and graphite pencil on paper, 13.4 cm x 16.4 cm, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence, 849.1.G.906.  
Photograph by Claude Almodovar © musée Granet, ville d'Aix-en-Provence



**BERNARD PLOSSU**,  
*Spilimbergo*, 2008,  
Fresson process print, 40 cm x 60 cm,  
private collection



**BERNARD PLOSSU AT THE MUSÉE GRANET, 2021**  
©Mélania Avanzato



**FRANÇOIS-MARIUS GRANET**  
*Veduta presa a villa Medici*, watercolour, brown wash, graphite pencil, lead pencil (sketch), brown ink (fountain pen highlights), 14.6 cm x 12.1 cm, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence Photograph by Claude Almodovar © musée Granet, ville d'Aix-en-Provence



**BERNARD PLOSSU**  
*Rome*, 1980, black and white silver halide print, 21 cm x 13.9 cm, private collection





## BERNARD PLOSSU BIOGRAPHY

- 1945 : 26 February, birth of Bernard Plossu in Dalat, south Vietnam
- 1958 : discovers the Sahara with his father who introduces him to photography (Brownie Flash camera)
- 1961-1965 : attends the Cinémathèque française and takes a close interest in the New Wave.
- 1965-1966 : lives in Mexico with his grandparents. He is hired as a photographer for the British Zashen Maax expedition to study the Lacandon people in the Chiapas jungle.
- 1966 : travels to Big Sur and San Francisco, California, with future doctor, Bill Coleman. Influenced by Beat culture.
- 1970 : visits India for the first time, joining Bill Coleman. Meets Henry Miller in California. Returns to Mexico.
- 1972 : meets Pablo Pérez-Minguez and Carlos Serrano. His photographs are published for the first time, in *Neuva Lente*. *Surbanalisme* is published by Éditions du Chêne with a text by Sergio Leone.
- 1974 : meets American photographers Lewis Baltz, Steve Kahn, Arthur Ollman, Larry John and Stanley Greene in California.
- 1975 : photographs Bororo Fulani nomads in Niger and travels to Senegal, Egypt and Morocco. Distances himself from commercial photography by taking black and white photographs with a 50 mm focal length.
- 1977-1985 : lives in the highlands of New Mexico.
- 1978 : birth of his first son, Shane.
- 1979 : *Le Voyage mexicain*, with a preface by Denis Roche, is published by Éditions Contrejour in Paris.
- 1983 : meets Michel Butor in Albuquerque.
- 1986 : marries Françoise Nuñez. Birth of his second son, Joaquim.
- 1987 : first photographic trip to Stromboli Island (Aeolian Islands). Travels to Portugal. Begins a series of long walks that would last for some fifteen years.
- 1988 : birth of his daughter Manuela. Grand Prix National de la photographie. *Les Paysages intermédiaires*, retrospective at the Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges-Pompidou organised by Alain Sayag, and *Paris – Londres – Paris* at the Centre Régional de la Photographie Nord Pas-de-Calais, Mission Transmanche. Bourse Villa Médicis Hors les Murs grant for Déserts (India, Turkey and Mali).
- 1989 : lives in Almería, Spain. Travels to Greece. *Le Jardin de poussière* written by Stuart Alexander is published by Éditions Marval in Paris. *The African Desert* at the National Museum of African Arts, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, United States.
- 1990 : retrospective at the Museum for Photographic Arts, San Diego, California, curated by Arthur Ollman.
- 1992 : moves to La Ciotat. *Route Nationale 1* at the Centre Régional de la Photographie Nord Pas-de-Calais, Mission Transmanche.
- 1994 : travelling retrospective organised by Gilles Mora for the Association Française d'Action Artistique (AFAA): Salzburg, Innsbruck, Barcelona, Lisbon, Marseilles, and *Nuage-soleil* at the Centre Photo Lectoure (Gers, France).
- 1995 : *Le Souvenir de la mer* at the Musée Gassendi de Digne (Alpes de Haute-Provence, France).





- 1997 : retrospective at the Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderna de Valence, Spain (IVAM), organised by Juan Manuel Bonet and Josep Vicent Monzo.
- 1999 : *O Pais Da Poesia* at the Centro fotográfico de Porto, Portugal.
- 2002 : *Col treno, l'Italie vue du train* at the Galerie Française de Rome, Italy.  
Text by Jean-Christophe Bailly. *Le chantier de restauration de la villa Noailles* by Jean-Pierre Blanc and François Carrassan, Noailles, Hyères (Var, France).
- 2004 : *D'où vient la lumière* at the Musée Réattu, Arles, France.
- 2007 : retrospective at the Musée d'Art modern et contemporain de Strasbourg. *So Long* at the FRAC Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-lès-Rouen, and then at the Musée de la photographie à Charleroi. *Sguardi gardesani* by Mimmo Jodice and Bernard Plossu, curated by Walter Guadagnini, Museo Riva del Garda, Italy.
- 2008 : *Attraverso Milano*, curated by Francesco Zanot, Bel Vedere Fotografia, Milan, Italy.  
*Marseille en autobus*, Bibliothèque départementale, Conseil départemental, 13.
- 2009 : *Pais de paysages*, by Teresa Luesma and Antonio Anson, Centro De Arte y Naturaleza, Huesca, Spain.
- 2010 : *Versant d'Est. Le Jura en regard* at the Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Archéologie de Besançon (Doubs) and *Plossu cinéma* at the Frac Paca de Marseille and the Galerie La Non-Maison in Aix-en-Provence. *Les paysages intermédiaires*, FNAC collection, Institut français de Berlin. *Berlin*, Espace d'art Le Moulin, La Valette du Var, France.
- 2011 : *Charleroi Plossu* at the Musée de la Photographie de Charleroi, and *Les Voyages mexicains* at the Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Archéologie de Besançon (Doubs, France). *Far Out ! Les Années Hip: Haight-Ashbury, Big Sur, India, Goa* published by Médiapopéditions.
- 2012 : *Monet intime* by Diego Candil and Vanessa Lecomte, at the Musée des impressionnismes, Giverny (Eure, France). *La Montagne blanche*, curated by Bruno Ely, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence. *Marseille*, curated by Christine Poullain and Guillaume Theulière, Centre de la Vieille Charité, Marseille. *Aller-retour photo cinéma autour de Bernard Plossu*, Espace culturelle Le Lavandou.
- 2013 : *Couleurs Plossu*, curated by Marc Donnadieu, Pavillon populaire, Montpellier.
- 2014 : *Vamonos, Plossu en Mexico* by Salvador Albinana and Mauricio Maillé, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City (Mexico). *Berlin*, Galerie Robert Doisneau, CCAM Vandoeuvre les Nancy. *Plossu – cinéma*, L'Arsenal, Metz.
- 2015 : *Voyages italiens*, curated by Laurie Hurwitz, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris.
- 2016 : Participating artist in the *Beat generation* exhibition, curated by Philippe Alain Michaud, Centre Pompidou, Paris. *Western colors*, curated by Stéphane Brasca, Rencontres d'Arles (Bouches-du-Rhône). *La Hora inmovil*, Real Jardín Botánica de Madrid.
- 2017 : *L'heure immobile*, Hôtel des arts, Toulon.
- 2018 : *Almeria*, Centro andalu de fotografía, Almeria, Spain.
- 2019 : *La frontière mexicano-américaine*, Fondation Carzou, Manosque, France  
*Jeux d'écritures*, Château Palmer. Publication of the book *Roma*, Éditions Filigrannes.
- 2020 : *Promenades varoises de Toulon au Lavandou*, Villa Theo, Le Lavandou.
- 2021 : *En passant par les musées de Bordeaux*, Galerie Arrêt sur image. *La Belgique l'air de rien*, Musée de la photographie, Charleroi, Belgium. *Marseille inédit*, Galerie Territoires partagés, Marseille. *Factory of original desires*, Ve Biennale Foto de Bologna, Mast fundazione.



## VISITING THE EXHIBITION

### GUIDED TOURS

**In French** (1 hour)

- At **2.30 pm**, Saturday 30 April and  
Wednesdays 4 May, 18 May and 1 June.

- At **4 pm**, Saturday 30 April and  
Wednesdays 29 June, 13 and 27 July, 10  
and 24 August.

Price: admission fee + **€4**

For the hard of hearing  
Hearing aids equipped with an induction  
loop system (T coil) are available for all  
guided tours.



### WRITING WORKSHOP FOR INDIVIDUAL ADULTS

**Saturday 7 May at 10 am**

*Postcard from Italy*

Duration: 2 hours

Price: free admission to the museum/  
workshop: **€5**

By reservation only and subject to available  
places.

Reservation:

granet-reservation@mairie-aixenprovence.fr  
or **04 42 52 87 97**

**BERNARD PLOSSU**  
©Mélanie Avanzato  
(detail)

### EVENT

In partnership with the **Istituto Italiano di  
Cultura**, Marseille



### CONFERENCE

*Plossu – Granet, Italia discreta*

**Wednesday 4 May at 6pm**

**Bruno Ely**, head curator of the Musée  
Granet, presents the exhibition showing at  
the Musée Granet.

Venue: Istituto Italiano di Cultura, 6 rue  
Fernand Pauriol, 13005 Marseille

Information: [www.iicmarsiglia.esteri.it](http://www.iicmarsiglia.esteri.it)

### CONCERT

**Thursday 12 May at 7pm**

**Saverio Gabrielli** on violin and **Lorenzo  
Bernardi** on guitar perform works by  
Paganini.

Venue: Musée Granet

Free entry, no reservation, subject to  
available places.

### BERNARD PLOSSU CLAUDIO ARGENTIERO IN CONVERSATION

**Tuesday 17 May at 6pm**

A dialogue between photographers  
**Bernard Plossu** and **Claudio Argentiero**  
to mark the opening of the Italia Intima  
exhibition at the Istituto Italiano di  
Cultura de Marseille.

Information: [www.iicmarsiglia.esteri.it](http://www.iicmarsiglia.esteri.it)

### EUROPEAN NIGHT OF MUSEUMS

**Saturday 14 May from 7pm to midnight**

The Musée Granet will open its doors for  
a free programme of evening events to  
celebrate the European Night of Museums.

Complete programme:

[museegranet-aixenprovence.fr](http://museegranet-aixenprovence.fr)





*La figura di Villa Medici*





## UPCOMING EXHIBITION

### VIA ROMA. PAINTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM THE NEUE PINAKOTHEK-MUNICH

11 JUNE – 2 OCTOBER 2022

In partnership with the **Neue Pinakothek de Munich.**



In summer 2022, the Musée Granet in partnership with the **Neue Pinakothek in Munich**, will show a selection of works by German artists working in Rome in the 19th century. This exceptional loan by the Neue Pinakothek in Munich will provide an opportunity for audiences in France to discover often overlooked artists, painters and photographers. This is the first time a body of work of this kind from the Neue Pinakothek is being shown in France. The loan was made possible by the closure for renovation of this leading Munich art museum.

Displaying these works alongside pieces by a single artist, **François-Marius Granet**, will provide audiences with a counterpoint and an insight into how Rome and Italy – an inexhaustible well of inspiration and objects of fascination extending across borders and cultures - have been seen through the eyes of artists and placed in perspective by them.

The first section of the exhibition on the ground floor is devoted to paintings, mostly from the collection of **Ludwig I of Bavaria**, founder of the Neue Pinakothek. Divided into four parts, it reveals the stylistic wealth and diversity of painters in this period, from Neoclassicism and Romanticism to the emergence of Realism, through landscapes and historicising, domestic and genre scenes.

The exhibition continues on the second floor with a display of outstanding photographs of Rome and its environs between 1850 and 1870 from the **Dietmar Siegert collection**. They will also dialogue with some thirty graphic works by François-Marius Granet from the Musée Granet.

#### Expert curator:

Herbert W. Rott, curator of 19th-century painting and sculpture at the Neue Pinakothek in Munich

#### Chief curator:

Bruno Ely, director of the Musée Granet and Paméla Grimaud, curator of the Musée Granet.



**DOMENICO QUAGLIO,**  
*View of the Villa Malta in Rome, 1830,*  
oil on canvas, 62.2 x 82 cm  
© Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen  
(Photo: Sibylle Forster)



## THE MUSÉE GRANET

### ONE OF FRANCE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL REGIONAL MUSEUMS

Opened in 1838 in the former 17th century Prieuré de Malte, the Musée Granet, which has been awarded “**Musée de France**” status, has been run by the Ville d’Aix since 2016. The transfer of this establishment from the city to the Communauté du Pays d’Aix (CPA) from 2005 to 2015, allowed the museum to continue the renovation and restoration project initiated by the City of Aix-en-Provence in the early years of the last decade and completed in 2006.

With the support of the Ministère de la Culture et de la communication - Direction des Musées de France, the Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, and the Département des Bouches-du-Rhône, the Musée Granet has increased its exhibition spaces sixfold. These exhibition spaces cover an area of 4,500 sq.m. and are mainly given over to paintings and sculptures from the museum’s collection.

In 2013, the Musée Granet added an extra 700 sq.m. of exhibition space following the opening of **Granet XXe in the Chapelle des Pénitents blancs**, renovated to accommodate the outstanding **Jean Planque collection**, on long-term loan from the Jean and Suzanne Planque Foundation.

### EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTIONS

The Musée Granet’s holdings include **almost 750 works**, offering an **extensive survey of artistic creation from the primitives and the Renaissance to the masterworks of modern and contemporary art**.

A rare collection of objects from the Celto-Ligurian archaeological site at Entremont explores the links between Gaul and the Celtic and Greek civilisations before the arrival of the Romans and the foundation of Aquae Sextiae (Aix-en Provence) at the end of the 2nd century BCE.

The **sculpture gallery** explores the work produced by sculptors in Aix in the 18th to 19th centuries, including **Chastel, Chardigny, Ramus and Ferrat**. This gallery, and the bust sculpture gallery, sheds light on leading figures from the Aix region, including **Vauvenargues, Cézanne and Mirabeau**.

From the Italian and Flemish primitives to the Baroque, and the Renaissance to Classicism, the painting collection explores the complete range of artistic production in Europe, including history and religious painting, genre scenes, portraiture, landscapes and still lives. The most outstanding pieces include works by the **Fontainebleau school**, the **Le Nain brothers**, and **Hyacinthe Rigaud** in France, **Mattia Preti** in Italy, and works by great northern painters - **Robert Campin, Rubens and Rembrandt**.

The core of the collections reflects the life and work of the museum’s benefactor and outstanding landscape-painter, the Aix-born artist and collector **François-Marius Granet**.

Photo : © Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence



The luminous views of the Roman countryside echo the masterful portrait of the artist by his friend **Ingres**. The monumental *Jupiter and Thetis* by **Ingres** forms the centrepiece of the rooms exploring developments in French paintings in the first half of the 19th century, from Neo-classicism (**Duqueylard**) to Romanticism (**Géricault**). Lastly, the masters of Provençal landscape-painting, **Loubon, Grésy and Engalières**, illustrate the vitality of pictorial creation in the region before **Cézanne**.

Pride of place is given to **Paul Cézanne**, with nine paintings from the French state collection on permanent loan to Aix. The museum itself owns six watercolours and several drawings and engravings. An additional work, **the only known portrait of Zola** by Cézanne, dating from 1862–1864, was added to the collection in the summer of 2011 by the Communauté du Pays d'Aix.

The influence of Cézanne on European artists can be traced in the museum's 20th century collections. The museum is home to the exceptional **donation by the physician and collector Philippe Meyer** (1925-2007), "From Cézanne to Giacometti", which includes a remarkable set of nineteen works by **Alberto Giacometti** (paintings, sculptures and drawings), produced between 1940 and 1969, as well as works by **Piet Mondrian, Bram van Velde, Balthus, Giorgio Morandi, Fernand Léger, Picasso, Nicolas de Staël, Paul Klee and Tal Coat**.

Building on these exceptional collections, the Musée Granet has developed a dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, guided tours and guides, and educational and cultural activities. While open to modern and contemporary art, the programme reflects Cézanne's own philosophy, between tradition and modernity, by intentionally exploring other periods in the history of art.

Photo : early works by Paul Cézanne  
© Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence









# THE MUSEUM AT A GLANCE

**KEY FIGURES**  
**13 000 WORKS**  
**6400 SQ.M.**  
OF WHICH 5,200 SQ.M. IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## VISITOR NUMBERS

More than 2.5 million visitors since 2006.

For the following exhibitions:

- 2006 : "Cézanne en Provence" - 450,000 visitors
- 2009 : "Picasso Cézanne" - 371,000 visitors
- 2010 : "Alechinsky, Les Ateliers du Midi" - 90,000 visitors
- 2011 : "Collection Planque, L'exemple de Cézanne" - 120,000 visitors
- 2012 : "Chefs-d'œuvre de la collection Burda" - 93,000 visitors
- 2013 : "Le Grand Atelier du Midi, De Cézanne à Matisse" - 242,000 visitors
- 2014 : "Chefs-d'œuvre de la collection Pearlman" - 115,000 visitors
- 2015 : "American icons: masterworks from SFMoMA and the Fisher collection" - 94,000 visitors
- 2016 : "Camoin - Light & life" - 105,000 visitors
- 2017 : "An Art lover's collection, Jeanne Bucher Jaeger Gallery since 1925" - 57,000 visitors
- 2018 : «Picasso-Picabia» - 90,000 visitors
- 2019 : "Fabienne Verdier in Cézanne country" - 145,000 visitors
- 2020-21 : "Pharaoh, Osiris and the Mummy" - 110,000 visitors

## KEY DATES

- 1775 : birth of François-Marius Granet
- 1825 : acquisition by the city of Aix-en-Provence of the Prieuré de Malte
- 1838 : inauguration of the Musée d'Aix
- 1849 : death of François-Marius Granet (bequest of 150 works, 300 paintings and over 1000 drawings from his collections)
- 1860 : Bourguignon de Fabregoules bequest (600 paintings)
- 1906 : death of Cézanne
- 1949 : the Musée d'Aix becomes the Musée Granet
- 1984 : long-term loan by the French State to the Musée Granet of eight paintings by Cézanne
- 2000 : The City of Aix begins renovating the Musée Granet with support from the French Ministry for Culture and Communication, the Conseil général, the Conseil régional and the Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
- 2000 : 71 works from the exceptional "De Cézanne à Giacometti" Philippe Meyer bequest on long-term loan to the museum
- 2002 : end of the renovation works in the sculpture gallery and 19th century galleries
- 2003 : transfer of the Musée Granet to the Communauté du Pays d'Aix
- 2006 : 4 March, museum partially reopens to the public

9 June, opening of the "Cézanne en Provence" exhibition until 17 September. The exhibition is recognised as of "national importance" by the Ministry of Culture and Communication - Musées de France Department. As a result, it benefits from special State funding.

- 2007 : 22 June, museum opens permanently.
- 2008 : two exhibitions, "La BD s'attaque au musée !" and "Granet, une vie pour la peinture"
- 2009 : international exhibition "Picasso Cézanne", in coproduction with the RMN
- 2010 : two exhibitions "Jean-Antoine Constantin, dessins", "Alechinsky: les ateliers du Midi".  
5 July, the Musée Granet becomes an "associate museum" of the RMN.
- 2011 : two exhibitions "Futuréalismes" and "Collection Planque, l'exemple de Cézanne"
- 2012 : three exhibitions "Philippe Favier, Corpuscules", "Chefs d'œuvre du musée Frieder Burda", "La Montagne blanche", photographs by Bernard Plossu.
- 2013 : exhibition "Cadavre exquis - Suite méditerranéenne" as part of Marseille Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture.  
21 May 2013: inauguration of the extension of the Musée Granet to the Chapelle des Pénitents blancs  
to exhibit the Planque collection.  
13 June 2013: opening of the exhibition "Grand Atelier du Midi" until 13 October 2013, in coproduction with the Rmn and the City of Marseille as part of Marseille Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture.
- 2014 : two exhibitions "Trésors de Beisson", "Chefs-d'œuvre de la collection Pearlman. Cézanne et la modernité",
- 2015 : exhibition "Aix antique, une cité en Gaule du Sud", "American icons: masterworks from SFMoMA and the Fisher collection" (2015)
- 2016 : the Musée Granet is transferred to the City of Aix-en-Provence.  
"10 years of acquisitions, 2006-2016" exhibition, "Camoin - Light & life"
- 2017 : "Bernex, rêver Rousseau", "Cueco, revoir Cézanne", "L'œil de Planque-Hollan-Garache", "Passion de l'art, galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger depuis 1925", "Cézanne at home", "Tal Coat, la liberté farouche de peindre"...
- 2018 : "Traverser la lumière", "Picasso - Picabia"
- 2019 : "Harry Callahan", "Fabienne Verdier in Cézanne country" "Sainte(s)-Victoire(s)"
- 2020-21 : "Pharaoh, Osiris and the Mummy"
- 2022 : "Plossu-Granet, Italia discreta", "Via Roma. Painters and photographers from the Neue Pinakothek-Munich"



## USEFUL INFORMATION

### PLOSSU – GRANET

ITALIA DISCRETA

29 APRIL – 28 AUGUST 2022

### OPENING TIMES

From 29 April to 10 June 2022

Tuesday to Sunday, midday to 6pm.

From 11 June to 28 August 2022 inclusive

Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 6pm.

Closed Mondays

Museum closed on 1 May.

### ADMISSION FEES

Included in admission to the Musée Granet: Saint-Jean de Malte and "Granet XXe, collection Jean Planque" site

29 April to 10 June 2022:

Full admission: €6

Reduced admission: €5, apprentices up to 25 years old, people with disabilities and their carer, group purchases (minimum 15 tickets), visitors with a recent (less than 6 months) full price ticket to the Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM in Marseille).

Free: under 18s, students under 26, long-term unemployed (from six months), beneficiaries of RSA work welfare allowance (on presentation of proof less than three months old), beneficiaries of a minimum old-age pension or disability benefits, holders of the CCAS d'Aix-en-Provence leisure card, holders of a French Ministry of Culture card, members of Icom, Icomos, AGCCPF, journalists, regional, national and international lecturers, members of the Amis du musée Granet, subscribers to the musée Granet, members of the Maison des artistes, teachers at the École Supérieure d'Art d'Aix-en-Provence, holders of the City Pass Aix-en-Provence.

11 June to 28 August 2022 (Via Roma exhibition included):

Full admission: €8

Reduced admission: €6, apprentices up to 25 years old, people with disabilities and their carer, group purchases (minimum 15 tickets), visitors with a recent (less than 6 months) full price ticket to the Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM in Marseille).

Free: under 18s, students under 26, long-term unemployed (from six months). For other eligible individuals, see above.

To qualify for reduced and free admission you must present a current proof of status.

### TICKETS

Musée Granet ticket office and at  
museegranet-aixenprovence.fr

### GROUPS

From 25 paid admissions, guide included.

By reservation only on 04 42 52 87 97 or  
granet-reservation@mairie-enprovence.fr

- 1 hour visit with a museum guide: entrance fee/pers. + €65 (€55 for work committees).

- Visit with external museum guide (speaking rights): admission fee/pers. + hire of headphones (compulsory) €35.

### MUSÉE GRANET

Place Saint-Jean de Malte

13100 Aix-en-Provence

Entrance for people with reduced mobility:

18 rue Roux-Alphéran

"Granet XXe, collection Jean Planque": Chapelle des Pénitents blancs, place Jean-Boyer (top of rue du Maréchal-Joffre) in Aix-en-Provence.

### OPENING TIMES

Musée Granet, place Saint-Jean de Malte and "Granet XXe, collection Jean Planque"

Open Tuesday to Sunday, midday to 6pm, except 11 June to 2 October 2022 inclusive: 10am to 6pm.

### INFORMATION

Tél. : +33 (0)4 42 52 88 32

museegranet-aixenprovence.fr

### GROUP BOOKINGS

Tél. : +33 (0)4 42 52 87 97

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