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Spring 2015

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- The Tudors

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- Velázquez
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- American icons. Masterpieces
of SFMOMA and the Fisher collection.

Autumn 2015

Musée du Luxembourg

- Fragonard amoureux

Grand Palais

- Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun
- Picasso and Contemporary Art
- Lucien Clergue

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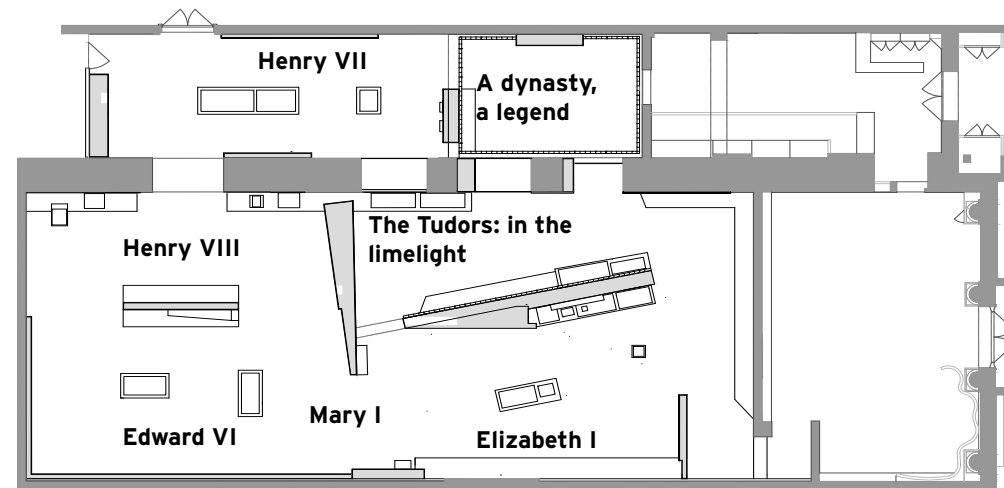
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EXHIBITION MAP



AROUND THE EXHIBITION

CULTURAL EVENTS

Programme of conferences and round tables

Presentation of the exhibition entitled The Tudors
with Cécile Maisonneuve, exhibition curator,
and Hubert Le Gall, exhibition set designer.
Palais du Luxembourg, Thursday 26 March, 6:30 pm

Portraits of power, from past to present
with photographer Olivier Roller, writer Adrien Goetz
and the students of the Paris Institute of Political Studies.
Palais du Luxembourg, Thursday 2 April, 5:30 pm

The English Renaissance, the century of the Tudors
with Bernard Cottret, historian and British history specialist.
Palais du Luxembourg, Thursday 16 April, 6:30 pm

Henry VIII in a TV serial: *The Tudors and Wolf Hall*
with Sarah Hatchuel, president of the French Shakespeare Society,
Marjolaine Boutet, historian, and the students of the FEMIS (TV serial section).
Palais du Luxembourg, Thursday 12 May, 6:30 pm

Clothing at court, from one scene to another
with Delphine Pinasa, Director of France's National Centre of Costume and Scenography
(Moulins), Muriel Barbier, Curator at the National Museum of the Renaissance (Ecouen),
and Christian Gasc, costume designer. Palais du Luxembourg, Thursday 21 May, 6:30 pm

The Tudors and the Borgias at the theatre and the opera
with Arnaud Laster, President of the Society of the friends of Victor Hugo,
in partnership with the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and the Comédie Française.
Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (Atrium), wednesday 10th of June, 6 pm

Free admission by reservation with agenda@museeduluxembourg.fr

AROUND THE EXHIBITION

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES

Guided tours

Guided tour of the exhibition

Accompanied by one of the museum's tour guides, immerse yourself in the English Renaissance and discover, via a selection of some the finest works from British collections, the myth and reality of the history of the Tudors. For adults and children aged 13 and above;
duration: 1 hour 15 minutes.

Family tour: Once upon a time... the Tudors

Bluebeard, the Child King, Bloody Queen Mary and the Virgin Queen... If you thought that the legend of the Tudors reads like something from a children's story book, you may be mistaken... Dare to hear the story of this legendary family that ruled over the Kingdom of England for more than a century. For adults and children aged 6 and above; duration: 1 hour.

Guided tour for schools: Figures of power

This exhibition presents sumptuous portraits of the five Tudor monarchs who transformed England during the Renaissance : images of a symbolic, distant form of absolute power. How can these portrayals help us to decipher the communication strategies of present-day public figures who control every aspect of their image, from stereotyped postures to forced smiles? What does the exhibition tell us about the universal issue of the representation of power? The tour guide will start this debate with the class in the last part of the tour. For secondary school/sixth-form pupils; tours in English available.

Family workshop for 6-10 year-olds: Pearls and velvet (workshop overseen by a wardrobe supervisor)

Observe and decipher the great portraits of the Tudor monarchs that greet the exhibition's visitors. Then, in the workshop room, dress up as kings and queens of the Renaissance to create your own royal portrait. Give a free rein to your imagination with your choice of crown, jewellery, cape, hat. A photo will immortalise your creation. For adults and children aged 6 and above; duration: 2 hours.

SPECIAL EVENING EVENTS

Sketchbook evening.

Wednesday 8 April, 7 pm - 10 pm

Free admission by reservation with agenda@museeduluxembourg.fr

European Night of Museums : Spotlight on the Tudors!

Costume design pupils from France's "La Source" secondary school will present a number of stage costumes for the exhibition's most prominent figures.

Saturday 16 May, 7:30 pm - duration : 1h. Free admission

PUBLICATIONS

Publications from Réunion des Musées Nationaux - Grand Palais, 2015

- Exhibition catalogue, 35€

- Exhibition album, 10€

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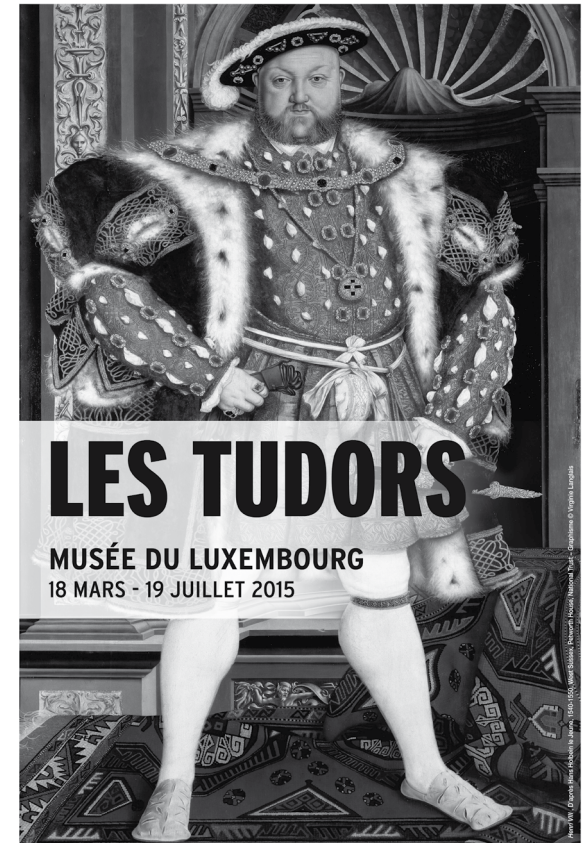
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Musée du Luxembourg
18 March - 19 July 2015

THE TUDORS



See the online page dedicated to the exhibition



GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Tudors reigned over England throughout the 16th century, leaving a profound mark on the history of their kingdom. The founder of the dynasty, Henry VII, put an end to thirty years of civil war. His son, Henry VIII, broke away from the Catholic Church to marry Anne Boleyn. Under Edward VI and Mary I, the country was torn between Protestantism and Catholicism. The dynasty’s golden age would come about – and end – with Elizabeth I, the “Virgin Queen”. This exhibition looks back at their history and the legend associated with them. It lifts the veil on the image that these five monarchs sought to leave for posterity, an image that would be seized upon by artists, writers and composers beyond their own kingdom. Reunited for the first time in France, these portraits of the Tudors reveal the monarchs’ symbolic power and the singular codes of the English Renaissance.

A DYNASTY, A LEGEND

Today, the mere mention of “The Tudors” calls to mind a major subject for the cinema. The dynasty’s international success on cinema and television screens goes back to the beginning of the 20th century, and owes much to the performing arts. French interest in the Tudors dates back to the 19th century and romanticism. It is part of a passion for history in general, and England in particular. The extraordinary private lives – at opposite extremes – of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I arouse curiosity. The innocent victims of their policies or their emotions would become the players of a veritable historical drama. Painter Édouard Cibot thus portrayed the despair of Anne Boleyn, while imprisoned in the Tower of London, with all the importance of a major historic event.

HENRY VII

Life: 1457-1509. Reign: 1485-1509
“...God that day decreed it, for it was done miraculously”,
The Twelve Triumphs of Henry VII, Bernard André, official poet at the court of Henry VII.

Henry Tudor, the first monarch of the dynasty, proclaimed himself King in 1485 at the age of 28 following the battle of Bosworth. His victory over Richard III put an end to the Wars of the Roses. Thanks to Henry, the House of Lancaster defeated King Richard III and, with him, the House of York. The reign of Henry VII at last brought order and stability to the kingdom, beset by thirty years of civil war. Although cautious and thrifty, Henry VII willingly financed prestigious buildings and tournaments that would glorify his court and legitimate his authority. In 1486, the country came together to celebrate the birth of his first son, Arthur. However, with the prince's sudden death in 1502, all the dynasty’s hopes fell upon his youngest children : Margaret, Henry and Mary.

HENRY VIII

Life: 1491-1547. Reign: 1509-1547
“...so covetous that all the riches in the world would not satisfy him”,
Charles de Marillac, French ambassador.

Henry VIII was 17 years old on the day of his accession in 1509. For his contemporaries, this athletic young man embodied the ideal prince and knight. Henry VIII would go on to display his ambitions abroad and his ruthlessness at home. Those close to him were aware of his capricious nature. “This is like having fun with tamed lions... Often he roars in rage for no known reason, and suddenly the fun becomes fatal” Thomas More.

EDWARD VI

Life: 1537-1553. Reign: 1547-1553
“What a King should England have had if God had given him his father’s age”
Richard Morison, on the death of Edward VI.

Son of Henry VIII and his third wife Jane Seymour, Edward was only 9 years old when he became king in 1547. Guided by his uncle, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, then by John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, Edward VI sought to establish Protestantism in England during the course of his reign. He named his Protestant cousin Jane Grey as his heir to avoid his half-sister, the devout Catholic Mary I, from ascending to the throne, and thus removed both her and his other half-sister, Elizabeth I from the line of succession. He died in 1553 at the age of 15. Upon his death, Jane Grey would reign for a mere nine days.

MARY I

Life: 1516-1558. Reign: 1553-1558
“She was a queen, and by the same title a king also”,
John White, bishop of Winchester , at her funeral service.

The daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, Mary I was, right from her very early years, a pawn in the diplomatic game, since her future marriage was intended to seal an alliance with another power. However, with the separation of her parents and her future in ruins, she went into isolation for several years, all the while constantly proclaiming her Catholic faith. With the death of Edward VI, she received a wave of popular support from a great many English nobles. She was proclaimed queen on 19 July 1553, thirteen days after the death of her half-brother. Her personal motto, “Truth, the daughter of time” bears testimony to her long and bitter fight to assert her legitimate right to the throne. At the age of 37, Mary I was crowned Queen of England. She was the first woman to govern the kingdom. She went on to restore Catholicism. However, it was above all her marriage to Philip II of Spain that led to considerable hostility towards her, since it was feared that a foreign prince would interfere.

ELIZABETH I

Life: 1533-1603. Reign: 1558-1603
“It would please me best if, at the last, a marble stone shall record that this Queen having reigned such and such a time, lived and died a virgin”,
Elizabeth I to Parliament.

The daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I came to the throne at the age of 25 following the death of her half-sister Mary I in 1558. The young queen drew on the advice of trusted advisers such as William Cecil, who helped her to restore the Church of England. During the long years of her reign, the kingdom became a great maritime power and enjoyed a literary flowering that would forever leave its mark on English culture. It was also during this period that a distinctly English aesthetic developed in portraiture, which played with the contrast between a more simplistic depiction of the face and the meticulous representation of the finest details of the dress and jewels. During Elizabeth’s reign, the queen’s image became the subject of government policy, and attempts were made to control its form and diffusion. She died without ever naming a successor. Her cousin James VI of Scotland, son of Mary Stuart, thus came to the throne, becoming the first King of Great Britain as James I.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

The lives of the Tudors have all the ingredients of an excellent plot. From the beginning of the 17th century, many writers – including Shakespeare – became aware of the legend’s dramatic qualities. Later, in the 19th century, the Tudors would become the subject of epic melodramas that mingled desire and duty, justice and betrayal, all against a historical backdrop. The wives of Henry VIII and the suitors of Elizabeth I would often be portrayed as victims. Also represented were Lady Jane Grey, queen for nine days, and Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, both great-granddaughters of Henry VII, and both ultimately beheaded. The theme inspired some of the finest names in French literature and Italian opera: Hugo and Dumas, Rossini and Donizetti... In 19th century in Paris, ties were established between historical paintings and the stage, with artists who were attentive to theatrical events such as Paul Delaroche and Eugène Devéria. Sometimes, the paintings themselves set the tone of the resulting theatrical productions. On a number of occasions, the works of Delaroche would be portrayed on the stage as veritable tableaux vivants.

Exhibition opening times (18 March – 19 July 2015)

Open every day from 10 am to 7 pm.
Open late every Monday until 10 pm.

Closed on 1 May.

This exhibition is organised by the Réunion des Musées Nationaux - Grand Palais in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery, London.



Exhibition Curators:
Charlotte Bolland, project curator for the *Making Art in Tudor Britain* project at the National Portrait Gallery,
Tarnya Cooper, chief curator at the National Portrait Gallery,
Cécile Maisonneuve, PhD in art history, art adviser to the Rmn - GP

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