

Musée Jenisch Vevey

A few historical milestones



1880

On 9 January 1880, Fanny Jenisch (1801-1881), the widow of a senator from Hamburg, bequeaths money to the City of Vevey for the construction of a museum. She dies in 1881 at the Hôtel des Trois Couronnes, which had been her home away from home when she would holiday in Vevey.



1893

Acquired through public subscription before the museum is even built, *Le Port d'Ouchy (The Port of Ouchy)* (1885), a landscape painted by François Bocion (1828-1890), is the first item on the inventory.

1896

Portrait de Max Buchon (Portrait of Max Buchon) (circa 1855) by Gustave Courbet (1819-1877) is donated by Édouard Baer-Monnet, a former mayor of Vevey and of La Tour-de-Peilz.

1897

The museum, designed by architects Louis Maillard and Robert Convert and inaugurated on 10 March 1897, is in the neoclassical style. Its facade features a replica of the frieze on the Parthenon in Athens.



The lobby and the corridor on the first floor are decorated with columns and statues inspired by classical antiquity; they have mosaic floors, as do the exhibition spaces on the ground floor and the hallways.



An encyclopaedic museum, it features not only collections of art, but also collections of natural history (botanical, geological, zoological – including the famous stuffed giraffe) and antiquities, together with historical collections (“Old Vevey”) and medals. The museum also features classrooms, laboratories and a library.



The museum's first curator, Fritz-Édouard Huguenin-Lassauguet, a master of drawing, watercolours and illustration, stays on the job for twenty-seven years.

1914

Juliette Courbet, the artist's sister, donates *Coucher de Soleil sur le Léman* (*Sunset on Lake Geneva*) (1874) and *La Terrasse de Bon-Port* (*The Terrace of Bon-Port*) (1876).

1917-1918

Commissioned by the Society of Fine Arts of Vevey, which is building the collections, Ernest Biéler (1863-1948) paints two monumental murals in the lobby: *L'Été et les Moissons* (*Summer and Harvests*) and *L'Automne et le Vin* (*Autumn and Wine*). The artist creates the commemorative album for the Winegrowers' Festival in 1905 and designs the decorations and costumes for the same festival in 1927.

1924

Artist Henri Bercher is the curator of the Jenisch Museum until 1948.



1949

Charles Sennwald, a drawing professor, succeeds Henri Bercher as curator.

1953

The collections of the Museum of Vieux-Vevey – later called the Historical Museum of Vevey – are moved to the castle.

1956

In the 1950s, the Arts and Letters section of the Association for the Interests of Vevey begins organising major exhibitions. François Daulte, a future director of the Fondation de l'Hermitage Museum, organises a Renoir exhibition that attracts 40,000 visitors – a record number – including an illustrious neighbour, Charlie Chaplin. Other important exhibitions follow, including *From Monet to Chagall* (1958) and *From Cézanne to Picasso* (1962).

1958

Henri Bercher's daughter, Henriette Bercher, a paintings conservator, becomes the museum's curator.

1963

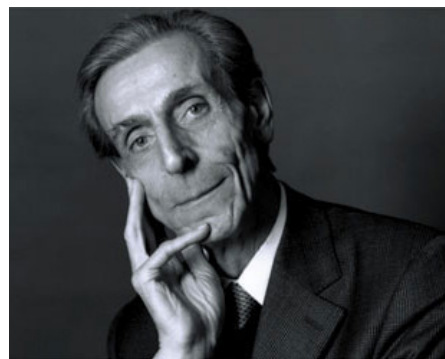
Fernand Favre, a painter and a visual arts professor, succeeds her as curator.

1968

The museum receives René de Cérenville's bequest of approximately 200 works, featuring drawings from the 16th to the 18th century (including some by Tiepolo and Carracci).

1982

Bernard Blatter, museum director from 1982 to 2004, rethinks the institution's policy, transforming it into a facility devoted exclusively to the fine arts. He brings numerous artist collections to Vevey, through foundations (Léolo Fiaux in 1984, Wilhelm Gimmi in 1991, Jacques Pajak in 1995, and others).



1985

The scientific collections (natural history) are transferred to the Galeries du Rivage.

The Foundation of the Friends of the Musée Jenisch Vevey is created to focus on the expansion and outreach of the institution, through acquisitions, children's programmes, measures to enhance the experience and comfort of visitors and the renovation of the museum's garden.

1987-1989

The building is fully renovated in order to become completely dedicated to the fine arts.



Established at the Musée Jenisch Vevey in 1987 and open to the public since 11 April 1989, the Cantonal Department of Prints features three public collections – the Print Collections of the State of Vaud and of the City of Vevey, as well as the Print Collection of Pierre Decker – and three collections left on deposit by two foundations and an association – the William Cuendet & Atelier de Saint-Prex Foundation, the Pierre Aubert Foundation and the Association of the Alexis Forel Museum.

1989

The museum hosts the Oskar Kokoschka Foundation that had been created by the artist's widow, Olda, a year earlier. The collection covers all of the artist's phases and includes over 2 300 artworks: oil paintings, water-colours and drawings, as well as almost all of his lithographic prints.

1993

The Nestlé art collection is created and left on partial deposit at the museum. Acquisitions are approved based on proposals by the management.

2004

The municipal library is moved to Quai Perdonnet, freeing up the basement level and enabling the museum's layout to be redesigned, as it had become too cramped to accommodate the growth of the collections.

Dominique Radrizzani runs the Musée Jenisch Vevey from 2004 to 2012, and makes drawing the focus of the exhibitions.



2009-2012

After a three-year closure during which it is enlarged and upgraded, the Musée Jenisch Vevey reopens in June 2012, fully renovated by the architecture firm Bakker & Blanc.

2013

Julie Enckell Julliard, director from 2013 to 2018, positions the Jenisch Museum as a venue for works on paper, such as drawings and prints.



2014

Rudolf Schindler donates 632 drawings by Ferdinand Hodler (1853-1918) to the museum. This former drawing professor had acquired most of them from the artist's widow, Berthe Hodler.

2015

The museum receives the entire collection from the studio of Stéphan Landry (1960-2009): 1700 drawings, donated by his family. 32 sketchbooks by artist Jean Otth (1940-2013) are also donated to the museum.

2016

The museum receives an anonymous donation of 18 paintings, 151 Italian drawings from the 16th to the 20th century, over 100 drawings by Ferdinand Hodler, about 170 European prints and 2 700 Japanese and Chinese drawings and prints.

244 prints by Picasso and 96 French etchings from the 19th and 20th centuries, belonging to the Werner Coninx Foundation in Zurich, are also transferred to the Musée Jenisch on permanent loan.

2017

The Print Pavilion is inaugurated on the first floor of the museum as a permanent space dedicated to exhibiting the finest prints held in the collections of the Cantonal Department of Prints. Three exhibitions are held there per year.

2018

The latest deposit is of prints from the Planque Foundation, also including etchings by Picasso.

2019

Nathalie Chaix takes over as museum director.

The Foundation of the Friends of the Musée Jenisch Vevey donates its entire collection to the museum.

2022

The Jenisch Museum celebrates its 125th anniversary.