

# ariana



musée suisse  
de la céramique  
et du verre  
genève

schweizerisches  
museum für  
keramik und glas  
genf

swiss museum  
for ceramics  
and glass  
geneva



Photo by Gérard Pétremand, Geneva

## Musée Ariana

### Swiss Museum for Ceramics and Glass

#### PRESS KIT

*Geneva, September 2017-* **Constructed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the distinguished Genevan art collector and generous patron, Gustave Revilliod (1817-1890), this palatial edifice was designed specifically as a museum to house ceramics and glass as well as painting, engraving, sculpture, coins, rare books and all forms of applied art.**

Bequeathed to the City of Geneva, together with all of the collections and the extensive grounds surrounding it, the building itself forms part of this heritage. Its atypical architecture incorporates neoclassical and neo-baroque stylistic elements, such as the marble colonnades spaced around its majestic hall crowned by an elliptical dome with star-studded vault. A scheme of painted ceilings and stained glass magnificently complete the interior decoration.

From 1934 onwards, as a result of a redistribution of the collections with the Musée d'art et d'histoire, the Musée Ariana became devoted to European, Middle- and Far-Eastern ceramics, covering an extensive period from medieval times to the present day. Glass and stained glass also moved to the institution at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since undergoing complete renovation between 1981 and 1993, the building is now equipped with the museographic facilities vital for the functioning of a high quality museum. The only institution in Switzerland today – and one of the most important of its kind in the world – which offers such a comprehensive view of the history of ceramics and glass, the Musée Ariana receives its visitors in an attractive setting dedicated to the transmission of a cultural heritage as well as offering a space for encounters and contemplation.

**Un musée  
Ville de Genève**  
[www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch)



## The Collections

With a collection of over 27,000 ceramic pieces, the Musée Ariana pursues the encyclopaedic mission initiated by Gustave Revilliod.

All the ceramic techniques, including earthenware, faience, stoneware and porcelain, are represented. They illustrate, through display or more utilitarian objects, the fascinating history of this material over time and place.

Visitors are first taken through the development of faience, from its origins in the Muslim world of the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the different stages of its technical and stylistic progression in Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The compelling account of the reciprocal influences between East and West, beginning with the arrival of the mysterious porcelain ware from China in European ports at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, is related in the following rooms. The tour of the ground floor ends with the technical achievements of the 18<sup>th</sup> century European porcelain manufacturers who, following the example of Meissen and Sèvres, attempted to win the favour of kings and princes. The story of local production is highlighted on the first floor, with pottery from Berne, faience from Winterthur, Nyon porcelain and creamware from Carouge.

With its wide variety of forms and techniques and its iconographic richness, the thousand-year-old art of ceramics has much to teach us about the large and small-scale history of mankind.

## Glass and Stained Glass

The glass collection of 2500 items retraces the evolution of European glass production, starting with the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Venetian golden age. The museum possesses remarkable works showing the absolute technical mastery and inventiveness of the Murano artists in blown, engraved and filigree glass.

Equally well-represented in the museum, coloured or polychrome enamel-painted glassware was highly prized in northern Europe during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Highlights of the collection include rare pieces by the French glassmaker, Bernard Perrot, Swiss production from Flühli and German pitchers and flasks. English and Bohemian crystal of unrivalled clarity and brilliance holds a place of honour as well in this historical presentation. Also exhibited in the museum are important Art Nouveau ensembles, notably by Émile Gallé, in addition to Art Deco work.

The stained glass collection, some of which is incorporated into the architectural elements of the building, comprises over 350 pieces, dating from the medieval period to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It includes significant examples of heraldic stained glass made in German-speaking Switzerland since the 16th century.

## Contemporary Creation

Besides its key mission to preserve the cultural heritage, the Musée Ariana has a clear aim to consolidate its links with the contemporary artistic world through acquisitions and regular temporary exhibitions. The collections document the distinction which emerged at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century between industrial production and the work of independent artists. Ceramics and glass have increasingly asserted themselves, since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as means of artistic expression in their own right, free from any craft or utilitarian connotations.

Visitors are therefore invited, at the end of the historical display, to confront the questions and proposals of contemporary work.

## The Association of Friends of the Musée Ariana (AAA)

In 1989, the Association for the Musée Ariana Fund (AFMA) was founded by a few close friends of the Musée Ariana, with the aim of raising funds to provide effective support for the institution's acquisitions policy. Since 1994, the year when the City of Geneva's museum acquisitions budget was suspended for economic reasons, the Association has played a key role at the Musée Ariana, enabling it year after year to acquire works of different origins, techniques and periods, all carefully chosen to fill any gaps in the collections or to reinforce their strongpoints. Thanks to the Association, the Ariana's holdings have been enriched through the addition of over 70 works between 1989 and 2010. The goals of the AAA are:

- to promote public awareness of the richness of the Musée Ariana's collections in the fields of ceramics and glass;
- to raise funds for the acquisition of objects to complement and enrich the Musée Ariana's collections;
- to organize events devised to raise awareness of and promote the Musée Ariana's collections, in close cooperation with the institution's management and curatorial staff;
- to support the Musée Ariana through voluntary activities, at the request of its management or curatorial staff.

The 2016 committee comprises:

Béatrice Guesnet-Micheli, President; Nicolas Gagnebin, Secretary; Philippe Nierlé, Treasurer;

Philippe Barde; Georges de Bartha; Cyril Duval; Loraine Etienne de Marignac; Heike Ibig; Lionel Latham; Ariane Micheli-Lardy; Philippe Neeser; Eveline de Proyart; Mireille Turpin.

For more information visit the AAA website: [www.amis-ariana.ch](http://www.amis-ariana.ch)

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## The International Academy of Ceramics (IAC)

Since 1952, the Musée Ariana has been the headquarters of the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC). The Academy currently has more than 550 members from 55 countries.

Every two years, the IAC organizes a Congress that features its statutory General Assembly, conferences on a specific theme and international and national exhibitions. It also supports various private initiatives in galleries or other cultural venues. Postulating the universality of ceramic culture as a basic value, IAC continues to foster a dialogue between cultures to assure the continued appreciation of all of the manifestations of ceramics. For more information visit: [www.aic-iac.org](http://www.aic-iac.org)

### Practical Information

Musée Ariana  
Swiss Museum for Ceramics and Glass  
10 Avenue de la Paix  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

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[ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:ariana@ville-ge.ch) - [www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch)

Open 10am to 6pm, closed on Mondays

Getting to the Ariana Museum:

Parking : Nations

Public transport : stops Appia (8 - 28 - F - V – Z) or Nations (5 - 11 - 15 – 22)

Access for persons with reduced mobility (please contact us in advance)

Permanent collections : admission free

Temporary exhibitions : 8 CHF / 6 CHF, Contemporary gallery : 5 CHF / 3 CHF

Combined ticket 10 CHF / 7 CHF

Free admission for under 18s and on the first Sunday of the month

On other Sundays: two for the price of one

Free admission for holders of the Pass Musées, the Card 20 ans/20 francs, the Cultural Cheque Book (*Chéquier culture*) 50% reduction with the Geneva Pass

Audio guides in English, French and German (5 CHF)

For groups up to 15 persons

Guided visits by appointment ☎ +41 22 418 54 50 - [adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch) (CHF 150.-- / CHF 75.— (special rate for subsidized associations by the State or the town of Geneva)

Learning space dedicated to ceramic techniques

Learning space for kids

Study collections

Specialised library (open 2pm to 5pm, Tuesday to Friday and by appointment – [www.ville-ge.ch/baa](http://www.ville-ge.ch/baa))

Museum Shop « Au Bonheur d'Ariane »

Cafeteria « Comptoir gourmand » - ☎ +41 22 418 54 66

**Direction** : Isabelle Naef Galuba

**Curator** : Anne-Claire Schumacher

**Heritage interpretation** : Hélène de Ryckel

**Visitor services** : [adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch)

**Communication and press office** : [communication.ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:communication.ariana@ville-ge.ch)

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# Musée Ariana

The Swiss Museum for ceramics and glass

Pictures for the press

**01** Musée Ariana  
Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre

© photo : Rémy Gindroz  
(Musée Ariana, Département de la culture et du sport  
Ville de Genève)



**02** Musée Ariana  
Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre

© photo : Rémy Gindroz  
(Musée Ariana, Département de la culture et du sport  
Ville de Genève)



**03** Musée Ariana  
Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre

© photo : Rémy Gindroz  
(Musée Ariana, Département de la culture et du sport  
Ville de Genève)



**04** Musée Ariana  
Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre

© photo : Mauro Magliani, Barbara Piovan  
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Ville de Genève)



**05** Musée Ariana  
Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre

Salle d'exposition permanente

© photo : Rémy Gindroz  
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Ville de Genève)



**06** Musée Ariana  
Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre

Salle d'exposition permanente

© photo : Rémy Gindroz  
(Musée Ariana, Département de la culture et du sport  
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- 07** Ensemble de trois vases, Sèvres (France)  
1778/79  
porcelaine, fond bleu lapis sous couverte  
AR 10618 – AR 10620 – AR 10619  
© photo : Jacques Pugin, Genève  
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Ville de Genève)



- 08** Pendule  
vers 1750  
Porcelaine  
Manufacture de Meissen  
AR 2003-210  
© photo : Andreia Gomes, Genève  
(Musée Ariana, Département de la culture et du sport  
Ville de Genève)



- 09** L'Education d'Emile  
Vers 1785  
Biscuit de porcelaine  
Modèle par Jean-François Hess  
Niderviller (France)  
AR 1443  
© photo : Jacques Pugin, Genève  
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Ville de Genève)



- 10** Terrines en forme de faisan et de tétaras  
Faience  
Manufacture de Strasbourg 1749 - 1751.  
AR 2001-223 et AR 2001-224  
© photo : Nathalie Sabato, Genève  
(Musée Ariana, Département de la culture et du sport  
Ville de Genève)



**11** Plat, L'enlèvement d'Hélène"  
Vers 1535  
Majolique  
Attribué à Nicolò da Urbino (Italy)  
AR 12728  
© photo : Jacques Pugin, Genève  
Musée Ariana, Département de la culture et du sport  
Ville de Genève)



## NOTE TO THE JOURNALISTS

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Image requests can be sent to [communication.ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:communication.ariana@ville-ge.ch) or made by phone on +41 (0)22 418 54 55.

Any reproduction must be accompanied by the following mentions: name of museum, author(s), title of work and photographer's name. Other details (dimensions, techniques, date, etc.) are desirable but not compulsory. These elements can be found in the press pack downloadable from our website [www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch).

With thanks,

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Logos officiels Musée Ariana

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