

# VISITOR GUIDE

## PROGRAMMING

XL and L Exhibitions: the first part of the year (XL) is opened to an outside curator (an artist, writer, art historian, philosopher, for example), who is invited to cast a fresh eye on the museum and its treasures. The second part of the year (L) focuses on a specific aspect of the collection and is orchestrated by MAH's curatorial teams.

M and S Exhibitions: this cycle of unique exhibitions unveils little-known parts of the collection, lifts themes approached in the large biannual exhibitions and furthermore launches collaborations with local institutions. Displays of works on paper are also included.

## AUDIOGUIDES

1. Connect your phone to *mah expo* WiFi.
2. Visit [soundcloud.com/mahgeneve](https://soundcloud.com/mahgeneve) or download the Soundcloud app to your device, then select the *MAHgeneve* page.
3. Pick the audio guide or the playlist of your choice, like *Parcours Coups de cœur* or *Parcours Invitation au voyage* or *Parcours Les étoiles du MAH*

## INCLUSIVE CULTURE

Since 2010, the MAH has worked to make the collection accessible to all. In addition to the descriptive and touch tours offered to the blind and visually impaired, tactile and audio Virtuoz® floor plans are available and sometimes complemented by 3D models of certain masterpieces.

Sign language video guides were created to allow deaf and hard of hearing visitors to discover the masterpieces of the collection on the website [izi.travel](http://izi.travel) (*mah geneve*). All year round, visitors living with intellectual disabilities can enjoy visits in French that match their learning style. Finally, sensory visits accompanied by art therapists are organised for people living with Alzheimer's and for their caregivers.





Built between 1903 and 1910 by the Genevan architect Marc Camoletti, with the aim of uniting under one roof a number of dispersed public collections, the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (MAH) is one of Switzerland's most important encyclopædic museums.

Boasting over a half a million objects, including major works and unique series that have made it an institution of international influence, the museum displays selections from its collections, which are devoted to the applied arts, fine arts, works on paper and to archæology.

Regional archeological findings, Egyptian and Classic antiquities, objets d'art, furniture, arms, paintings and sculptures are the witnesses to fifteen thousand years of history.

# TEN MASTERPIECES

This selection outlines a tour through the permanent collection, with its distinctive features and highlights. These ten masterpieces are worth a visit in and of themselves.

- A**  **Savoyard Helmet, ca. 1580.**  
From the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, this type of helmet was used in several European armies. According to history, this one, along with thirty similar examples, comes from the Escalade, that infamous night in December 1602 when Duke Charles-Emmanuel the 1<sup>st</sup> of Savoy attempted to seize the city of Geneva.
- B**  **Stained Glass From St. Peter's Cathedral, *Saint James the Greater*, 1487.**  
This stained-glass window representing Saint James the Greater comes from the apse of St Peter's Cathedral in Geneva. It is part of an ensemble of six quasi complete windows, depicting the Apostles as well as Maria Magdalena.
- C**  **Antonio Canova, *Venus and Adonis*, between 1789-1794 and 1820.**  
This sculptural group representing Venus and Adonis is by Antonio Canova, whose work is the epitome of neoclassical sculpture. Often inspired by mythology, Canova shows the sorrowful lovers in a tender embrace.
- D**  **Konrad Witz, *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*, 1444.**  
This work by painter Konrad Witz is one of the MAH's highlights. It plays an important role in Western art history: by reproducing existing topography, it has become the first realistic "portrait" of a recognisable landscape.

E



Jean-Étienne Liotard, *Liotard Laughing*, 1770.

This self-portrait shows the painter as the actor of a farce in a theatrical setting. The artist with a toothless smile and cheeky gaze holds his hand in a mysterious fashion. He seems to be showing the way to a place invisible to the viewer.

F



Ferdinand Hodler, *The Jungfrau in the Mist*, 1908.

In his last years, Ferdinand Hodler dedicated himself to Swiss landscapes. He visited Grindelwald a few times, where he admired the mythical Jungfrau. The mountaintop emerges from the fog, showing its blue and white peak, symbolising a spiritual world.

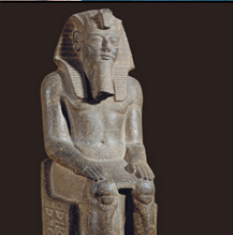
G



Félix Vallotton, *The Turkish Bath*, 1907.

This painting, a tribute to the eponymous painting by Ingres, plays a special role within the many works by Félix Vallotton kept at the MAH. Whereas Ingres' piece is an ode to sensuality, this one shows the unforgiving way Vallotton depicts the human body.

H



Colossal Statue of Ramses II, 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, ca. 1290–1224 B.C.

Carved in a single block of granodiorite, this colossal statue was discovered in the Temple of Bubastis by Genevan Egyptologist Édouard Naville (1844-1926). In addition to its artistic qualities and historical significance, it is a rare example of an almost finished piece.

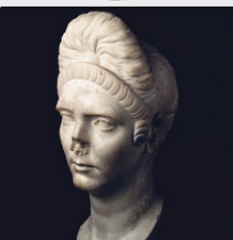
I



Large Silver Dish, known as the Charioteer and Hunters  
Late 3rd – early 4<sup>th</sup> century C.E.

This silver masterpiece from Antiquity reflects the lifestyle of the imperial court. Its central medallion depicts a victorious charioteer and evokes the importance of chariot racing. Six hunting scenes decorate the dish's lip.

J



Portrait of Pompeia Plotina, between 118 and 120 C.E.

When compared to other sculpted portraits and numerous representations on coins, this statue undoubtedly is Pompeia Plotina. Originally from Nîmes, she married Trajan, who ruled the Empire from 98 to 117, and influenced her time by using her power to the people's advantage.

## 2 FINE ARTS WORKS ON PAPER

M Exhibitions:

*Surimono*, through August 21, 2022

*The Mountain in Perspective*, September 23, 2022 - February 19, 2023

S Exhibitions:

*Racing Time*, through October 2, 2022

*Masters of Imagination*, October 8, 2022 - January 29, 2023

## 1 APPLIED ARTS

M Exhibitions:

*Pastime*, through August 28, 2022

*Making Money: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Genevan Banknotes*,

October 1, 2022 - February 19, 2023

## 0 ADMISSIONS DESK APPLIED ARTS

L Exhibition:

*10 Billion Years*, July 22 - October 30, 2022

## -1 ARCHÆOLOGY RESTAURANT

## -2 REGIONAL ARCHÆOLOGY



ELEVATOR



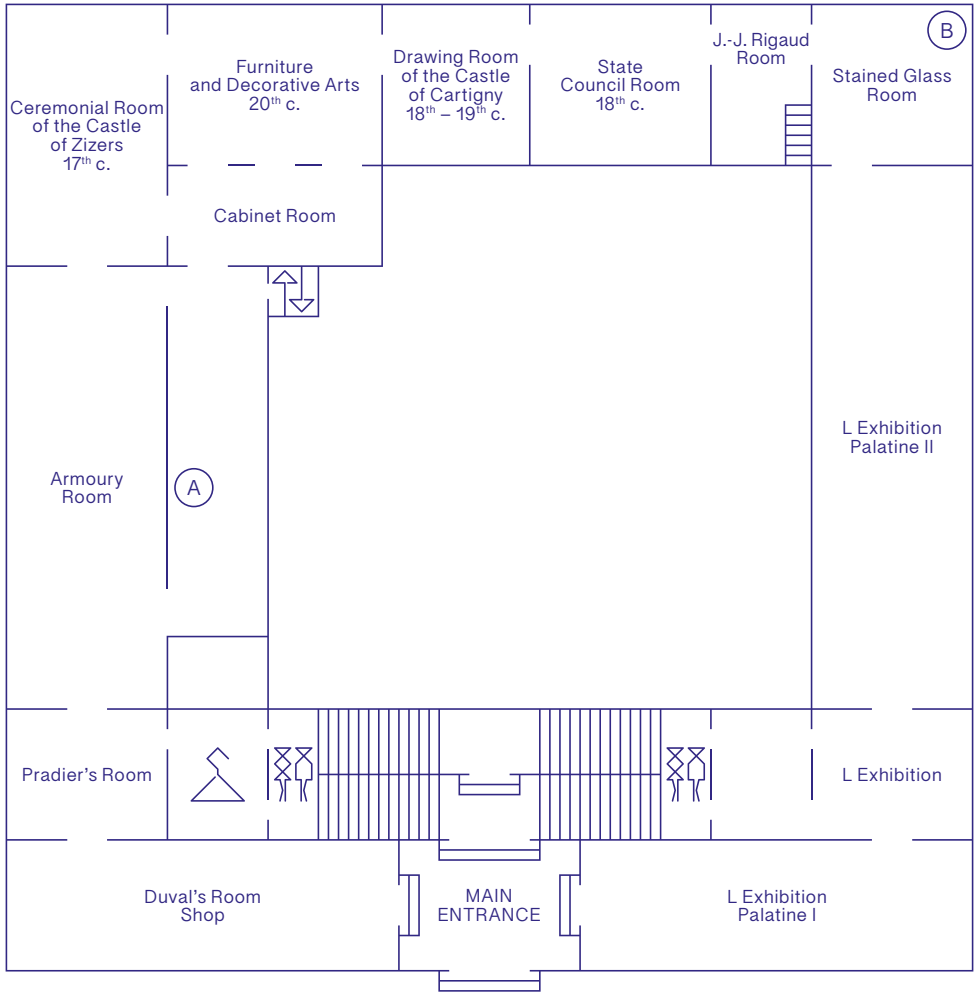
CLOAKROOM



RESTROOM



RESTAURANT



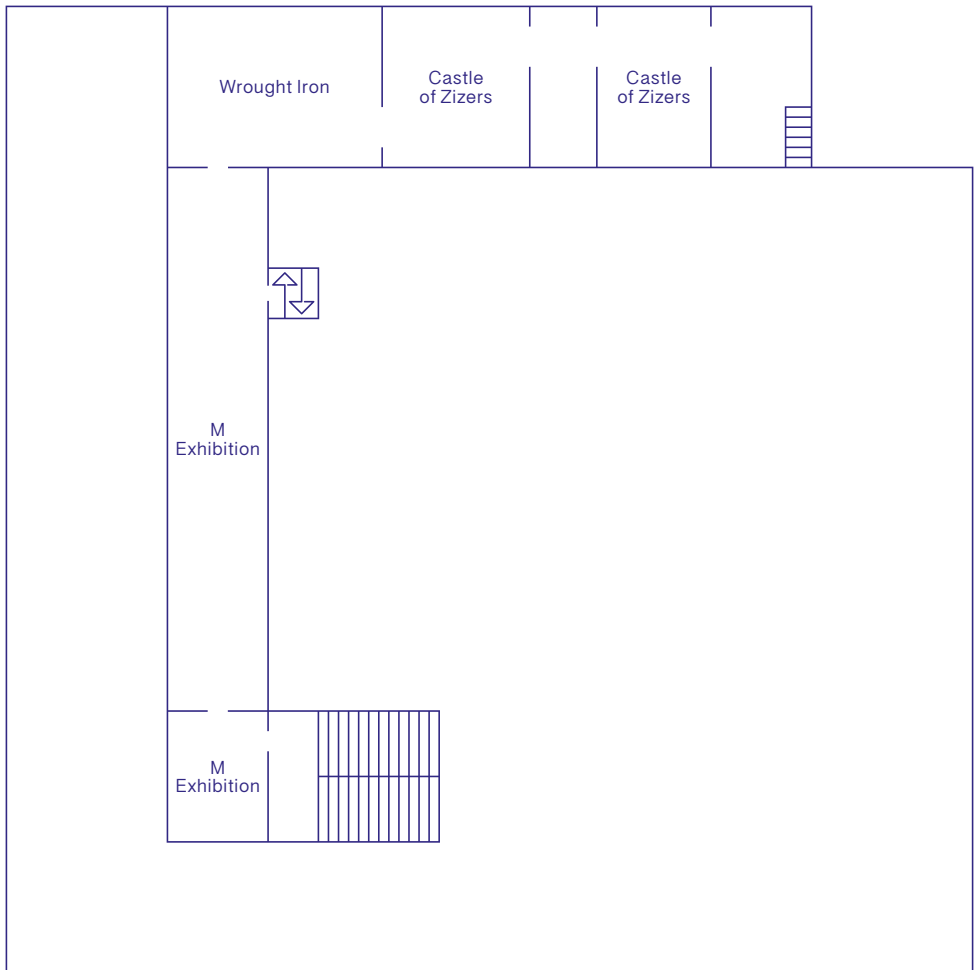
## 0 APPLIED ARTS

With more than 23,000 objects ranging from the Middle Ages to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Applied Arts collection is particularly diverse. It includes a multitude of ancient arms, silverwork, pewterware, textiles and furniture.

The Armoury Room displays arms from the late Middle Ages to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and presents artefacts from the 1602 Escalade, when the Duke of Savoy attempted to seize the city of Geneva.

Historic rooms immerse the viewer in a lifelike reconstruction of the past, illustrating how the museum presents furniture and artworks in their original context.

L Exhibition: *10 Billion Years*, July 22 - October 30, 2022




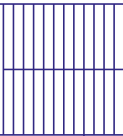



# 1 TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

In the suite of galleries dedicated to temporary exhibitions, several Swiss historical rooms, with sculpted woodwork from the Castle of Zizers (the canton of the Grisons), present 17<sup>th</sup> century decorative arts.

M Exhibitions: *Pastime*, through August 28, 2022; *Making Money: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Genevan Banknotes*, October 1, 2022 - February 19, 2023



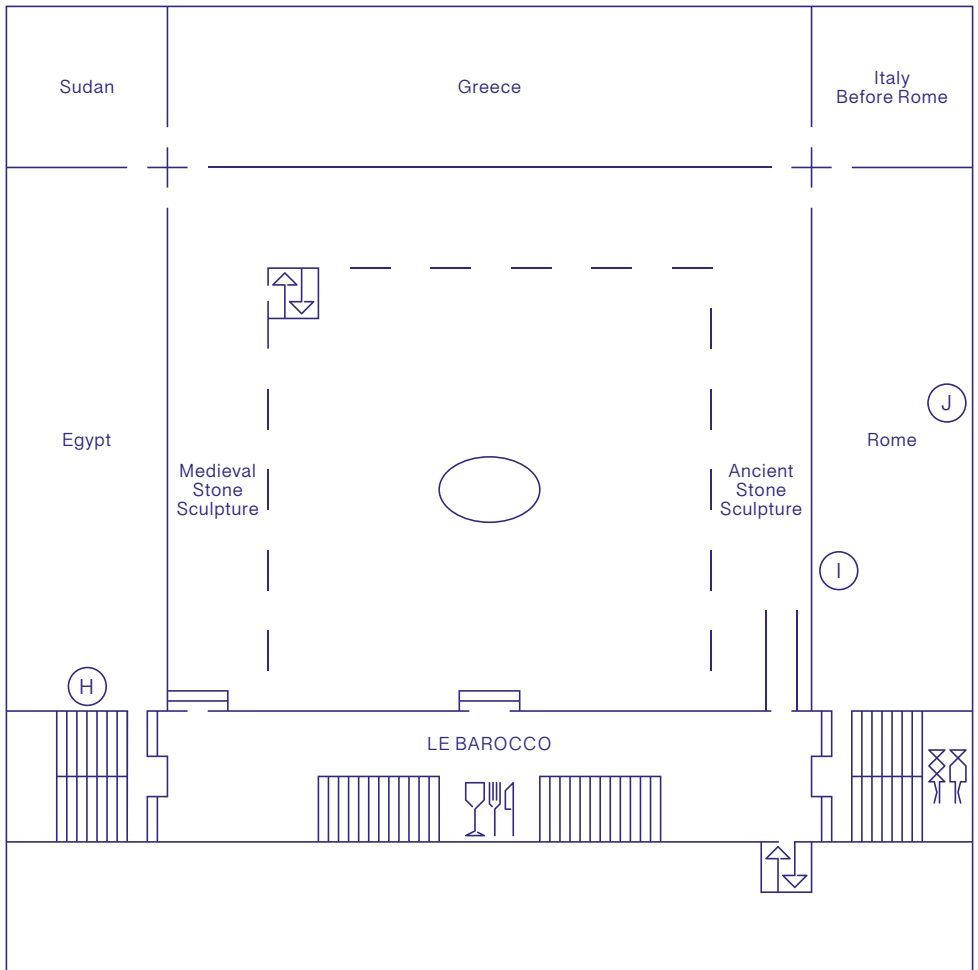
Genevan Landscapes De La Rive, Töpffer 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	Geneva The English Taste 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	Neo-Classicism Saint-Ours 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	Genevan Landscapes Calame & Diday 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	Modern Landscapes Monet, Van Gogh 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> c.
European Portrait Liotard, Hogarth 18 <sup>th</sup> c.  (E)	S Exhibition  		S Exhibition	Ferdinand Hodler 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> c.  (F)
Italian Baroque Art 17 <sup>th</sup> c.	S Exhibition Liotard Self-Portraits Portraits 16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> c.		S Exhibition Bonnard, Vallotton, Amiet Modern Art 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> c.	Félix Vallotton 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> c.  (G)
Flemish & Dutch Art 17 <sup>th</sup> c.	Genre Scenes 16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> c. Landscape 16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> c.		École de Paris 20 <sup>th</sup> c. Modern Art 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> c.	Swiss Symbolism 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> c.
International Mannerism 16 <sup>th</sup> c. 	Sculpture		Sculpture	Genevan Modernity 20 <sup>th</sup> c. 
Konrad Witz Religious and Secular art 14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> c.  (D)		(C)	M Exhibition	

## 2 FINE ARTS & WORKS ON PAPER

This route threads from the Middle Ages to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, from Konrad Witz to Alberto Giacometti, and offers a panoramic view of European art recentered around Swiss art. While retracing a history of art through major pieces, the approach cultivated here is both chronological and thematic.

The floor is anchored by five rooms devoted to evolving presentations from the collection: a large gallery of special exhibitions (M) and four cases displaying works on paper (S).

M Exhibitions: *Surimono*, through August 21, 2022; *The Mountain in Perspective*, September 23, 2022 - February 19, 2023. S Exhibitions: *Racing Time*, through October 2, 2022; *Masters of Imagination*, October 8, 2022 - January 29, 2023

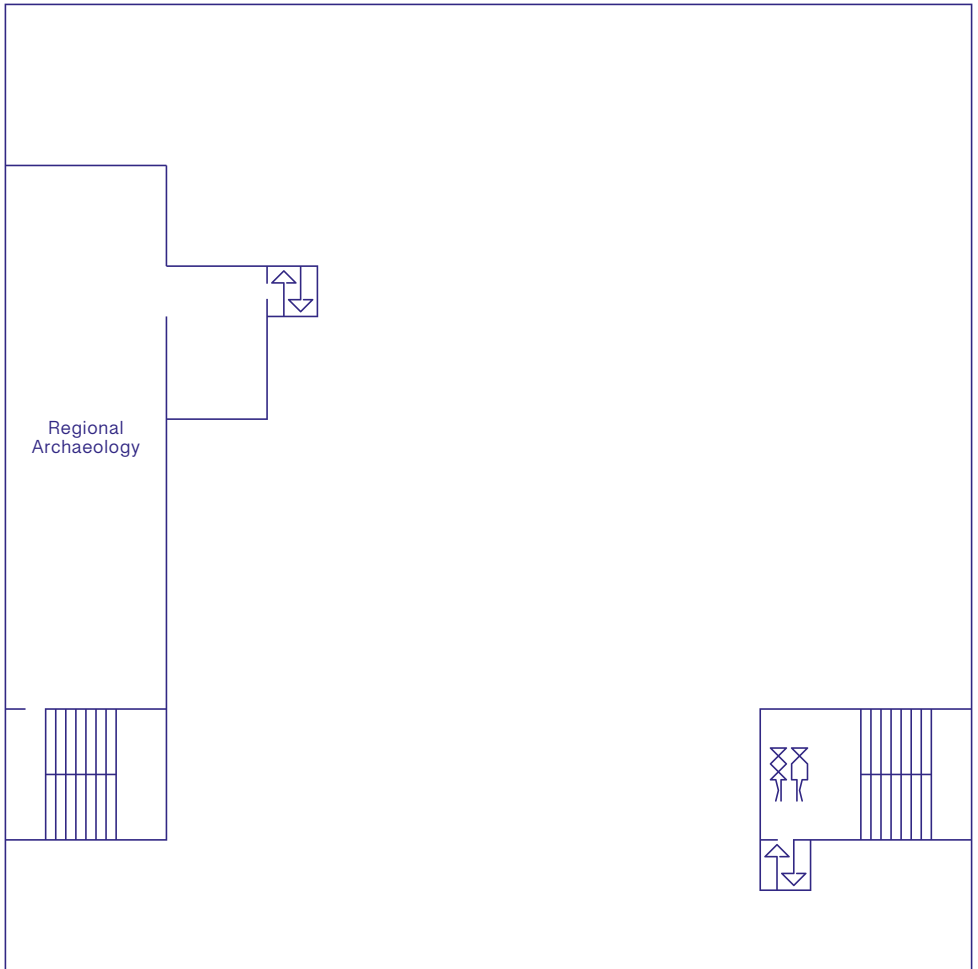


## -1 ARCHÆOLOGY

The antiquities collection includes more than 70,000 objects. Assembled for the most part in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the instigation of collectors, it testifies to the Genevan taste for ancient civilisations.

The pieces are displayed in chronological order, leading the visitor from Pharaonic Egypt to the Roman Empire via Ancient Greece and the peoples of the Italian peninsula before the Roman expansion.

The MAH boasts having the largest Egyptian antiquities collection in Switzerland. The flagship of the Greek collection is unquestionably the Italiote funerary vase collection from the Greek colonies of Southern Italy. The superb group of sculpted portraits in the gallery of Roman antiquities is not to be missed either.



## -2 REGIONAL ARCHÆOLOGY

The Regional Archæology room presents discoveries made in the Geneva region from over more than a century. The installation guides the viewer from the first signs of human occupation, around 13,000 B.C., to the year 1000 of the modern era. This room contains one of the museum's treasures, the oak statue of an Allobrogian (Genevan Gaul) chieftain, standing nearly three metres high.

## POINT OF SALE

The MAH's exhibition catalogues, as well as various objects, are on sale at the museum entrance. The area is open during the MAH's visiting hours. An online store is also available at [shop.mahmah.ch](http://shop.mahmah.ch)

## LE BAROCCO

The MAH includes a restaurant, Le Barocco, inspired by local Genevan traditions and specialising in homemade pastries. During the summer months, an outdoor terrace welcomes visitors into the museum's inner courtyard. The restaurant is only open during the MAH's visiting hours.  
Information and bookings: T +41 (0)22 418 26 82

## TICKETING & BOOKINGS

[billetterie.mahmah.ch](http://billetterie.mahmah.ch)

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Buses 3 & 5 (Athénée stop), bus 7 (Musée d'Art et d'Histoire stop), bus 36 (Saint-Antoine), buses 1 & 8 (Florissant stop), trams 12 & 17 (Rive stop), regional train Léman Express (Genève-Champel stop)

Parking: Saint-Antoine

Wheelchair access: entrance on Boulevard Jaques-Dalcroze 9

## GENERAL INFORMATION

MAH - Musée d'Art et d'Histoire  
Rue Charles-Galland 2, 1206 Genève  
T +41 (0)22 418 26 00 (Monday to Friday)  
[mah@ville-ge.ch](mailto:mah@ville-ge.ch)

[mahmah.ch](http://mahmah.ch)  
[mahmah.ch/collection](http://mahmah.ch/collection)  
[mahmah.ch/blog](http://mahmah.ch/blog)  
 [mahgeneve](https://www.youtube.com/mahgeneve)

Open from Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm  
Thursdays, from 12pm to 9pm. Le Barocco opens at 11:45am

Pay what you wish!

Suggested admission between 5 CHF and 20 CHF.