

PRESS RELEASE

From November 14th, for the first time at Palazzo Nuovo, the exhibition

Cartier & Myths at the Capitoline Museums

From November 14th until March 15th 2026, this new exhibition, held in the museums' Palazzo Nuovo, will showcase some of the most prestigious creations of the Maison Cartier in an evocative dialogue with the ancient sculptures of the Palazzo Nuovo.

Rome, September XX, 2025 – From November 14, 2025, to March 15, 2026, the Capitoline Museums' Palazzo Nuovo will host a temporary exhibition for the very first time, with "Cartier & Myths at the Capitoline Museums." The creations of the Maison Cartier, mostly from the heritage Cartier Collection, will be in dialogue with the marble sculptures from the collection of Cardinal Alessandro Albani – the original core of the Palazzo Nuovo museum's collection – and with a selection of precious ancient artifacts from the Capitoline Superintendency, as well as prestigious Italian and international institutions and private collections.

The exhibition, curated by Jewellery historian Bianca Cappello, Archeologist Stéphane Verger and Capitoline Superintendent Claudio Parisi Presicce, and promoted by Roma Capitale, the Department of Culture, the Capitoline Superintendency for Cultural Heritage, is organized in collaboration with Maison Cartier and with the support of Zètema Progetto Cultura. The exhibition design is by Sylvain Roca, with an extraordinary creative contribution by Master Dante Ferretti.

From the mid-19th century to the present day, Cartier has studied, drawn inspiration from, and reinterpreted the aesthetic and symbolic repertoire of ancient Greece and Rome, transforming millennia-old motifs into jewels with a unique and modern character. "Cartier and Myths at the Capitoline Museums" is a fascinating journey to discover the aesthetic and formal universe of the Maison Cartier, in continuous dialogue with the exceptional collection of ancient sculptures of the Capitoline Museums. The exhibition explores how classical antiquity has constantly inspired its most iconic creations, reconstructing intellectual and cultural atmospheres and evoking the evolution of the imagery linked to Greece and Rome during the 19th and 20th centuries. A particular focus is placed on the profound connection between Cartier and Italy, especially Rome.

The permanent collections of the Palazzo Nuovo in Campidoglio – the original Capitoline Museum established in December 1733 by Clemente XII Corsini – consist almost exclusively of marble sculptures, largely acquired from the collection of Cardinal Alessandro Albani. Many of these ancient sculptures have been essential models for the formation of the European artistic language. The exhibition offers an original perspective on a particular and important aspect of this theme: the use of the ancient repertoire in jewellery, from the "pastiche" of the 19th century's great collectors and goldsmiths, like the Castellani in Rome, to the Neoclassical Garland style, up to the subsequent works inspired by Jean Cocteau in the post-war period, finally arriving at today's creations and a new approach to Antiquity.

The exhibition highlights the use of the classical Greco-Roman repertoire in Cartier's creations and the transformations of the first half of the twentieth century, when a new conception of classical antiquity matured. A section is dedicated to the techniques and processes of jewelry making, with references to the Roman age. The exhibition also explores the mythological inspirations that have nourished Cartier's imagery since the beginning of the 20th century, comparing the creations of the Maison with the ancient deities of Palazzo Nuovo – Aphrodite and Dionysus, Apollo and Heracles, Zeus and Demeter – and inviting visitors to rediscover the ancient models that inspired them within the permanent collection.

The exhibition, conceived as an immersive experience enriched by audiovisual elements, is characterized by the olfactory displays created by the Maison Cartier's perfumer, Mathilde Laurent, and by the exhibition of hard stones from Cartier's glyptics workshop which embody the deities and myths on display.

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Cartier & Myths at the Capitoline Museums

Capitoline Museums - Palazzo Nuovo, Rooms on the first floor

Piazza del Campidoglio, 1 - 00186 Rome

Opening hours: every day 9.30 am - 7.30 pm. Last entry one hour before closing

For more information: tel. 060608 (every day 9.00 am - 7.00 pm) -

www.museicapitolini.org

About the Cartier Collection

In the 1970s, Cartier began to gather together pieces that had been produced in its earlier years; jewelry, timepieces and other precious accessories were thus collected for conservation, leading to the foundation of the Cartier Collection in 1983.

Today, the Cartier Collection includes pieces dating from as early as the 1860s until as late as the 2000s. These pieces act as material records of Cartier's over 170-year history of style and creativity and also provide a wider historical account of evolutions within the decorative arts as well as in society since the end of the 19th century.

With approximately 3,500 pieces and still growing, the Cartier Collection has sparked the attention of museums worldwide. Since the first major exhibition in 1989 at the Petit Palais in Paris, the Cartier Collection has been showcased by some of the world's most renowned institutions in 44 monographic exhibitions.

"Cartier & Myths at the Capitoline Museum" is the second monographic exhibition dedicated to Cartier in Italy, after "Cartier designed viewed by Ettore Sottsass" held at Palazzo Reale in Milano in 2002.