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47 member States

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Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
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Romania
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Slovenia
Spain
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Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
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Strasbourg, 12.05.2009

Night of Museums: Council of Europe to unveil its vast art collection for the first time

Date: 16 May 2009

Location: Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Description: For the first time ever, art works spanning some 3,000 years will be put on display at the Council of Europe's Palais de l'Europe on Saturday, 16 May, from 6 pm to 1 am.

The occasion is the 5th edition of Europe's "Night of Museums" – a cultural highlight from Dublin to Vladivostok and from Istanbul to Helsinki, when museums of the 47 Council of Europe member states are invited to open their doors to the public for evening art appreciation.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary this month, the Council of Europe invites the public to discover an art collection as diverse as Europe itself. Ranging from an 8th century BC amphora to contemporary painting and sculpture, it includes 17th century Flemish tapestries, aesthetically arranged outdoor water fountains dubbed "Water Forest" and a massive wood façade, "Summer Night in a forest in the Far North."

Member and non-member states, regional and local authorities, and artists have donated their art to the Council over the past 60 years: a tangible expression of support for an organisation that views human rights as the focal point of society, and acknowledging that creative artists play a vital part to shape attitudes and behaviour.

The nocturnal exhibit will include musical interludes, as visitors access some of the most prestigious rooms of the Palais, including the office of the Parliamentary Assembly President, where celebrated Catalan artist Antoni Tàpies' "Drets de l'home" [*Human Rights*] – acrylic and surface texturing on corrugated cardboard – can be admired.

A detailed catalogue of the Council of Europe's art collection will be made available, and stamp collectors should not miss the inauguration Saturday of two new stamps marking the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe the 50th anniversary of the European Court of Human Rights, which is part of the Council of Europe. A post office inside the building will be open from 2 pm to 10 pm, so people can also use the freshly minted stamps.

Practical information:

Open doors from 6 pm to 1 am from the main entrance to the Palais de l'Europe.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.