

# ILLUSTRATED TIMELINE THE LONG 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

The collection at the Sinite Museum is especially strong in French art of the nineteenth century, compelling us to focus on historical events in that country in order to provide some context for the art on view here. In addition to political and military events, several social themes are highlighted, including the relationship of the Catholic Church to the French state; the educational system in a democracy; and economic issues, such as labor, commerce, and industrialization. Another thread that can be discerned is the place of museums and state- or privately organized exhibitions in the political landscape, underscoring the vital role these institutions and activities play in our understanding of the world.

**1789** French Revolution erupts after economic decline and poor harvests. Revolutionaries seize or destroy property belonging to the Catholic Church.

**1792** French monarchs are deposed and the First Republic is proclaimed. In an anti-clerical fervor, revolutionaries reject the Gregorian calendar developed by the Catholic Church and institute a new republican (secular) system for marking time based on a decimal system. A new metric system is developed for weights and measures. Divorce becomes legal. European courts startled at the revolutionary zeal seek to contain the upheaval. The new republican army goes on the attack under General Napoleon Bonaparte. Continental wars continue until 1802.

**1793** Reign of Terror culminates in the trial and execution of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Over 45,000 French men and women are executed as “enemies of the Republic.” The neoclassical artist Jacques-Louis David is a member of the National Convention (the assembly that held executive power in the early years of the First Republic in France) and votes to abolish the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture. Two years later, the Convention consolidated all of the learned societies into the National Institute for the Sciences and Arts.



Charles Louis Lucien Muller (French, 1815–1892), *The Roll Call of the Last Victims of the Reign of Terror*, ca. 1860, oil on canvas. Gift of Mrs. Thomas Cusack, 1960.042.



Pierre-Jean David d'Angers (French, 1788–1856) *Jean-Baptiste Lechevalier*, 1839, plaster. Gift of Barbara J. and Charles K. Driscoll '63 in honor of Ann K. and James Francis Driscoll '30, 2008.047

**1795** Archaeologist Alexandre Lenoir opens to the public the Museum of French Monuments comprising objects that had been confiscated from churches, monasteries, and convents during the Revolution. The National Convention adopts *La Marseillaise* as the national anthem, later rescinded by Napoleon.

**1796** Franz Joseph Gall, a German doctor, develops the theory of phrenology, believing that measurements of the skull can predict intellect and character. The Edinburgh Phrenological Society is established in 1820. Never as popular in France as in the rest of Europe, it did have its adherents, such as David d'Angers.

**1799** 18th Brumaire and the Constitution of the Year VIII (republican calendar) establish Napoleon as First Consul of the new French government.

**1803** Napoleon, in need of money, sells the United States 828,000 square miles of territory in North America—the Louisiana Purchase.



Antoine-Denis Chaudet (French, 1763–1810) *Napoleon Bonaparte*, ca. 1804, marble. Acquired with funds provided by Mr. Al Nathe, 1998.040.002

**1804** Napoleon crowns himself Emperor.

**1815** Napoleon abdicates. The Bourbon monarchy is restored under the reign of Louis XVIII. The Catholic Church in France regains some of its power and influence. Lenoir returns much of the “national” collection to the Catholic Church and other private owners.

**1830** July Revolution and Monarchy. Louis-Philippe becomes the “citizen-king” with plans to convert the Palace of Versailles into a public museum dedicated to the history of France.

**1833** Guizot laws establish primary schools in every commune across France.

**1837** At Sainte-Croix, France, Father Basil Moreau organizes a group of priests and brothers into the Congregation of Holy Cross. He sends missionaries to the United States.



Léon Cogniet (French, 1794–1880) Sketch for *Portrait of Louis Philippe, the Duke of Chartres*, 1792, 1834, oil on canvas. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Noah L. Butkin, 2009.045.059



William-Adolphe Bouguereau (French, 1825–1905) *Portrait of a Young Girl*, 1868, oil on canvas. Bequest of Lady Marcia Cunliffe-Owen, 1980.028

**1838** Le Bon Marché, the first department store in Paris, opens. Department stores originated in Britain, arguably as early as 1734. With economies of scale, new patterns of production and consumption emerge.

**1841** France passes its first child labor laws, setting the minimum age for employment at eight years and prohibiting children under twelve from working more than eight hours per day. Children were also prohibited from working at night, on Sundays, or legal holidays. In the 1840s, French factories employed about 150,000 children or about twelve percent of the workforce. Bouguereau's *Portrait of a Young Girl* reveals an emerging sympathy for children of the working classes.

**1842** Father Sorin, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and his colleagues take possession of 524 acres in Indiana given to them by the Bishop of Vincennes.



Edward Gabé (French, 1814–1865), *The Proletariat Seizing the French Throne*, 1848, oil on canvas. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Noah L. Butkin, 2009.045.050

**1848** Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish the *Communist Manifesto*. Peasant revolts spread throughout Europe. American diplomat John Godfrey Boker stationed in Prussia sends Steinbrück's *Adoration of the Magi* (on view) to New York to save it from anticipated destruction resulting from the revolts. In France, the monarchy is overthrown and the Second Republic is established. Napoleon's nephew, Louis Napoleon, is elected president by popular vote.

**1850-51** In France, Falloux laws create a mixed educational system, part of which was secular and funded by the state and part of which was controlled by the Catholic Church. Primary education became universal and educational opportunities for girls expanded, especially in Catholic schools.

**1851** Louis Napoleon initiates a coup d'état. On December 2, 1852, he assumes the throne as Napoleon III and establishes the Second Empire.

**1854** Crimean War. France and Britain declare war against Russia.

**1855** World's Fair held in Paris. Artist Gustave Courbet opens the Pavilion of Realism as a protest against the official Salon held concurrently with the fair. There he shows his monumental canvas *The Artist's Studio*.



Fernand Cormon (French, 1845–1924), *The Head of Cain*, ca. 1878-80, oil on canvas. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Noah L. Butkin, 2009.045.088

**1859** Charles Darwin publishes *On the Origin of Species*, founding the science of evolutionary biology. While his theories challenge a literal reading of Genesis, he concedes that there is a “Creator” who works through natural laws. Pictures of biblical stories are cast in a prehistoric light, such as in Fernand Cormon’s sketch for the *Head of Cain* made in preparation for his monumental canvas exhibited in the Salon of 1880.

**1863** Ernest Renan publishes *The Life of Jesus*, a controversial biography that subjects the Bible to the same critical scrutiny as other historical documents. Edouard Manet calls for the Salon des Refusés, a rival exhibition protesting the government-organized juried Salon, where he exhibits his *Luncheon on the Grass*. Charles Baudelaire publishes his essay, “The Painter of Modern Life.”

**1870** Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune. Napoleon III is captured at Sedan. The Second Empire collapses and is replaced by the establishment of the Third Republic. As a member of the Commune, Courbet proposes to dismantle the monument to Napoleon’s military victories, the Vendôme Column in Paris, which eventually happens. He is tried, jailed and fined, and later goes into self-imposed exile in Switzerland. Painter Claude Monet flees to England as does the sculptor and Communard Jules Dalou, whose sketch of *Victory* is on view.

**1874** Father Sorin goes to Rome and invites Italian artist Luigi Gregori to the University of Notre Dame as director of the art department. During his tenure, Gregori decorates the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the Main Building, and Edwards Hall. First Impressionist Exhibition opens in Paris.

**1875** Construction of Sacré-Coeur begins on Montmartre, considered one of the most rebellious neighborhoods, as a form of penance for the perceived transgressions of the Paris Commune. Construction is completed in 1914.

**1879** Fire destroys the Main Building at the University of Notre Dame. In France, *La Marseillaise* is reinstated as the national anthem.



Ary Scheffer (Dutch, 1795–1858), *La Marseillaise*, 1827, oil and ink on canvas. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Noah L. Butkin, 2009.045.099



Wilfrid-Constant Beauquesne (French, 1840–1913), *The Crows* 1887, oil on canvas. Gift of Linda Motteler, 1991.065



Constantin Meunier (Belgian, 1831–1905), *Landscape with Factory*, 1886, oil on panel. Gift of Mr. John D. Reilly '63, 2013.039.001

**1881-82** Jules Ferry laws secularize education in France, making it free and lay.

**1884** Waldeck-Rousseau labor laws passed recognizing trade unions.

**1885** Emile Zola publishes *Germinal*, a novel about a strike at a coal mine.

**1886** Dedication of the Statue of Liberty, designed by French sculptor Frédéric Bartholdi and a gift of the French government to the United States, in New York.

**1889** Eiffel Tower built for the World's Fair in Paris.

**1892** Declaration by French cardinals condemns the government of the Third Republic's policies on the administration of the Church in France. In response, Pope Leo XIII issues an encyclical stating the Church's independence from any particular form of government, essentially reconciling the Catholic Church with the French Republic from which it had been estranged since secularization began during the Revolution in 1789.

**1893** National Assembly in Paris bombed by an anarchist.

**1894** The Dreyfus Affair, the accusation of treason leveled against a Jewish military officer, divides France. Emile Zola publishes “J’Accuse!” in 1898 forcing the government to reopen the investigation, which leads to exoneration in 1906.

French President Sadi Carnot is assassinated by Sante Geronimo Caserio, an Italian anarchist.

**1913** Armory Show in Chicago introduces European avant-garde art to America.

**1914** World War I begins.