

Paris, France 2024

Andriana Nicoghosian



About me:

My name is Andriana Nicoghosian and I was selected for the 2024 Robert C.J. Traub Memorial Scholarship for Visual Arts. I chose to visit Paris, France for 10 days with my family. I am grateful to have received this opportunity and I am excited to share the details of my trip and experience.

Why Paris?

I chose to visit Paris because of the city's immense role in art from as early as the middle ages. You can see evidence of this everywhere you look in the city.



Museums:

The Louvre

Seeing the Louvre in its entirety is quite the challenge, since the museum is so large and holds so many incredible works. I spent about 6 hours walking through most of its wings and viewing art from many different backgrounds. The building itself is also an extraordinary work of art.





I felt an almost overwhelming feeling when walking through the entrance to the front terrace portion, just because of its size!



My favorites were the ancient Babylonian and ancient Egyptian wings. I enjoyed watching the evolution of art throughout different civilizations and eras.

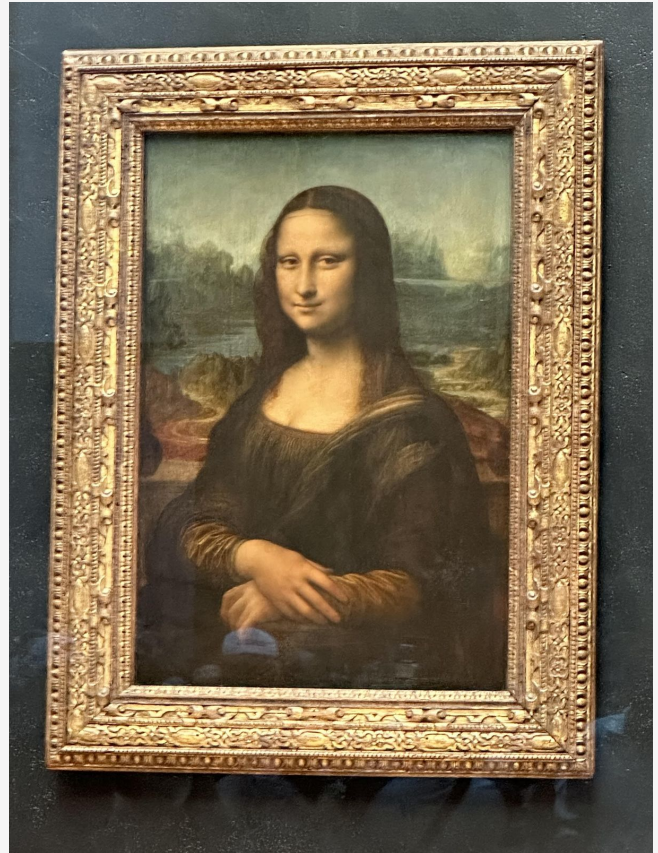


Additional Photos:













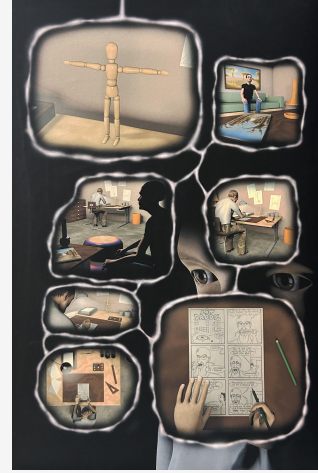
Centre Pompidou

The Centre Pompidou was my favorite museum by far, I had done some research online prior to visiting and was immediately intrigued by the unique design of the building. Its glass and metal framework utilizing bright primary colors stands out incredibly from the rest of the buildings in the city.





I saw the current exhibition of modern and contemporary works from their 140,000 piece collection, as well as their special exhibition on comics, which I found very enjoyable.



I discovered many new artists in this exhibition



Contre-culture

Les années 1960 virent un idéologique partout dans le monde, aux formes étonnantes liées au contextualisme qui marqua les cultures et les idéologies de la culture stable. Manifeste idéologique d'une génération, cette contre-culture émerge particulièrement le thème de la liberté sexuelle, l'usage de contraceptifs comme contraceptif pour montrer que cela n'est pas le fruit de la culture, aux États-Unis, les mouvements sociaux approuvent en marge de la production grand public. Ils démontrent les traditions et comment les genres des théâtres qui produisent un effet considérable sur la culture, influençant les courants de la culture dominante mondiale. En Europe, ils ont influencé les courants de la culture dominante avec les genres traditionnels de succès, le mélange avec d'autres formes d'art. Ils ont de même influencé les courants de la culture dominante qui ont été à la reconnaissance de la culture.

Counterculture

The 1960s saw the development of forms of free expression and protest all over the world, being against the social and cultural conventions of the dominant culture. This counterculture was the result of a generation and ideology that produced the idea of culture, which was the result of the culture of the time. In the United States, France, Japan and then the United States, new forms of culture appeared in the form of television and film. These movements came together and spread the seeds for forms that would be considered legitimate and even the part of the culture, with the culture of modern society, which produced, combined and combined with other forms of art. The 1960s also trained the seeds of culture movements that would be the result of the culture of the '60s and '70s.

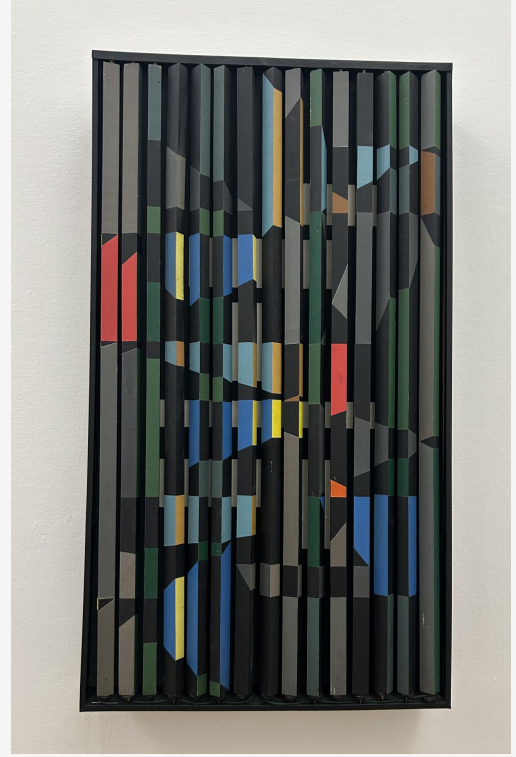


One of my favorite pieces from the comics exhibition, by Stéphane Blanquet



I also viewed their exhibit on *Corto Maltese*, a popular comic from the 1960's. The exhibit featured original paintings by the author/illustrator, Hugo Pratt

Additional Photos:



Musée Rodin

The Rodin museum was beautiful! It features a garden with classic bronze sculptures by Auguste Rodin. It was incredible to see the sculptures in such detail.





My favorites were The Thinker and The Gates of Hell. Specifically the latter was incredible to see in person, the level of detail on the piece was amazing.

The indoor portion of the museum was great as well because it showed the first “mock ups” of The Gates of Hell and his other works in plaster and terracotta, and gave us a look into his process. I loved seeing the progression and learning more about the technique used, especially since I haven't seen many contemporary works in this style. This museum was a great example of how a perfect setting enhances the experience of viewing it.



Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris

The front exterior of this museum was gorgeous and immediately drew me in from the sidewalk. and the inside held even more great works. I viewed their permanent collections, which included their large array of cubist pieces



I saw works by some of my favorite artists, Georges Braque, and Robert Delaunay.



Another portion of the museum had an exhibition by Ari Marcopoulos, featuring pieces about skateboarding and hip hop captured through photography also intrigued me. There was a huge contrast in the setting of this museum versus the setting of the older, more traditional museums like the Louvre. The building's tall ceilings and white walls were complementary to the often simple and graphic works on display.

BEWARE

Carte blanche à Ari Marcopoulos





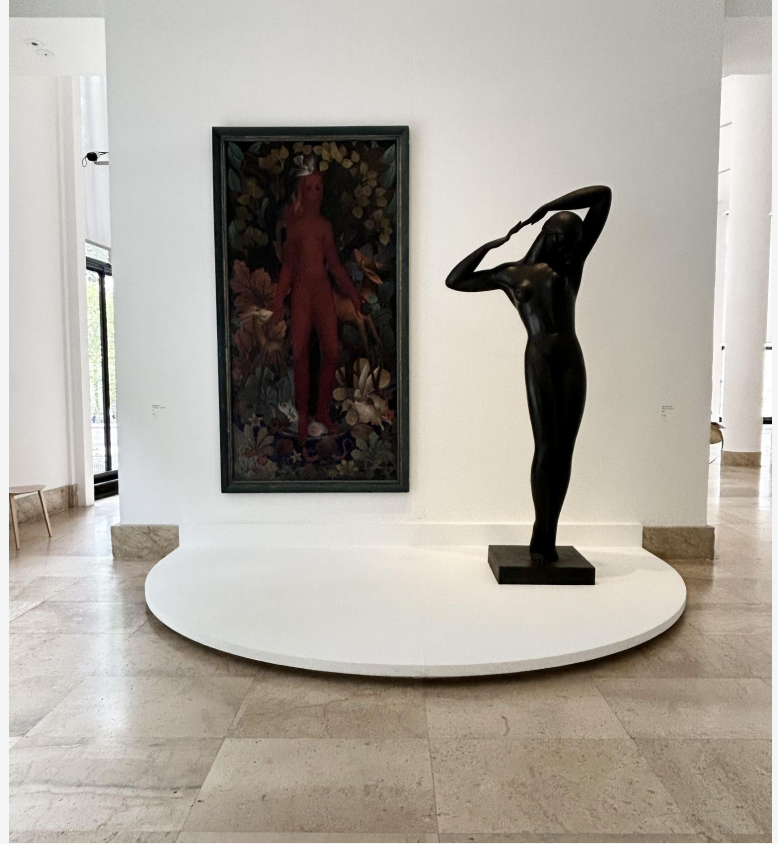
Additional pieces
from the *BEWARE*
exhibit



Additional Photos:



The first room featured this amazing piece that warped around the walls



Musée de l'Orangerie

Musée Orangerie is extremely well known for its collection of Claude Monet's Water Lilies and its collection of other great impressionist works and post impressionist works



This portion of the museum was very busy, even though we got there quite early in the day. I can imagine how excellent it would feel to view the paintings with no one else around. The inscription on the wall said that Monet directed the creation of this exhibit with a goal in mind of the viewer becoming immersed into the works and experiencing a meditation effect. It's hard to achieve that feeling with hoards of people walking around and taking selfies.





The rest of the museum held a beautiful collection of other impressionist works by artists like Paul Cezanne and Henri Matisse.



Additional Photos:





Versailles

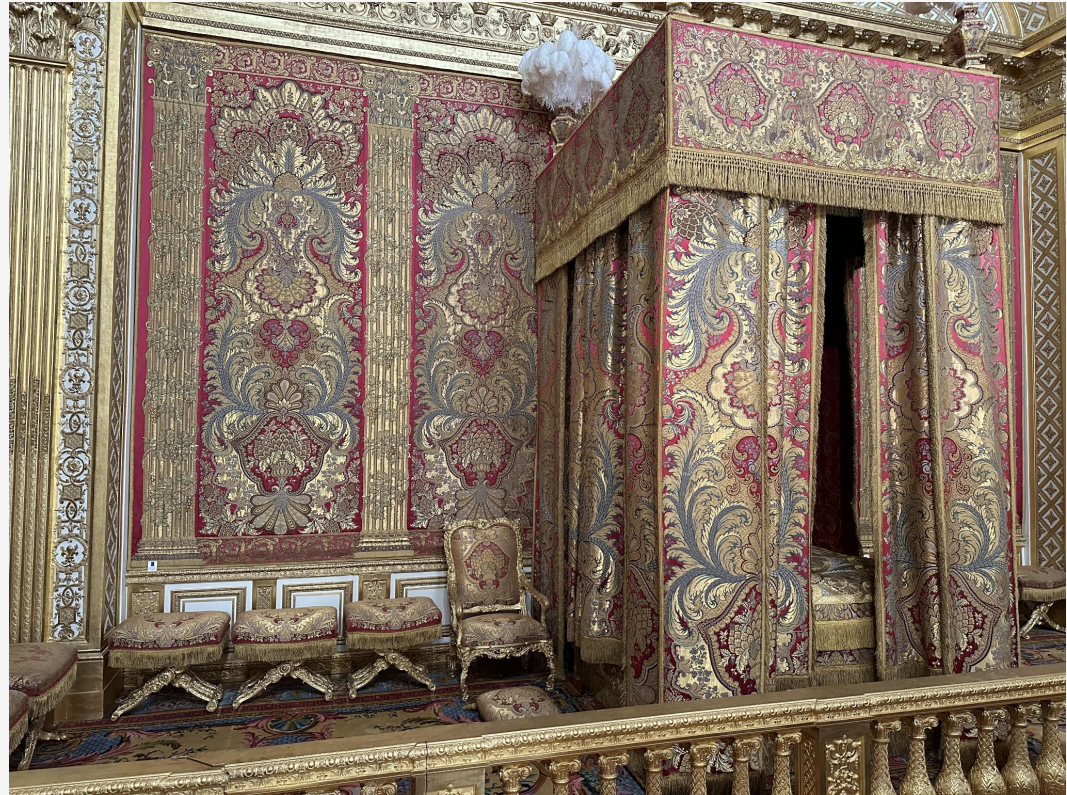
It felt unbelievable to be standing on the same stone plaza where the revolutionaries stormed the palace in 1789, and being able to visualize its grandeur and opulence in its heyday .



The palace has been serving as a museum since the late 19th century, when people began having an interest in seeing how the royals lived.



As you walk through the palace, each room gets more opulent and visually busier than the next. It's hard to imagine relaxing in a room with so many ornate details on something as simple as a bedpost.



We could also see the gardens from inside the palace, they were extremely elegant!





**The
City:**

Paris is a museum in and of itself, walking through the city exposes you to many important landmarks, incredible churches, and buildings each with their own stories to tell. We witnessed beautiful gardens that had been maintained over centuries as well as historically significant buildings where tragedies of war occurred.



Street Art

Paris is full of graffiti and murals, and it was interesting to see the American influence on the graffiti style.



Bastille

The monument of the Bastille, a symbol of the french revolution, is now surrounded by cafes, shops, and the new Paris Opera House. It is hard to imagine how gruesome this very square must have been when daily executions were being carried out by guillotine during the French Revolution. That applies for every corner of Paris, it seems everything has withstood the test of time, and each building has a story to tell.



Churches

There is no shortage of beautiful churches all throughout Paris. Some are cherished world-wide like the Notre Dame and the Sacre Coeur and others that are not as widely known but just as beautiful and intricate as the others.

We saw the Notre Dame under repairs, a lot of progress has been made since the tragic fire.



The Sacre Coeur was amazing! beautiful architecture paired with historical significance made the climb up from the street completely worth it!



Église Saint-Eustache was also very beautiful, and it was right behind our hotel! We visited multiple times throughout the trip. I noticed they had a piece by Keith Haring in the church that was donated by John Lennon and Yoko Ono in 1978 as a tribute to the charitable work done by the church.



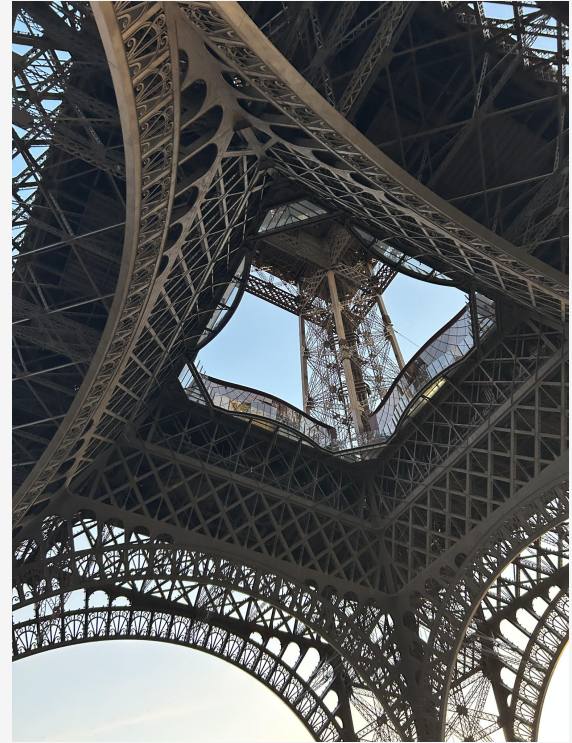
Arc de Triomphe

This famous landmark sits right in the middle of the Place Charles de Gaulle, a road junction that connects 12 avenues. It was amazing to see up close and in person!



Eiffel Tower

A must when visiting Paris! It was incredible to see up close and we even took a tour up to the top! The architecture and history of the iconic landmark was very interesting to learn more about.



The view was beautiful
from the top!



Family

It was also great to connect with family in the city. We walked to my great aunt's apartment on our first day, and she told us some history about the street and neighborhood, Rue Elzevir. It was established by the Dutch in the early 1700s. It was crazy to me that her building is older than the United States as a country! The name of the street comes from the large number of Dutch publishers and book shops historically present on the street. Unfortunately none of those establishments survived today.



The lives of my aunt Rubina and her husband Rene Jacobs, revolve around classical music, specifically from the baroque era. My great aunt has been living in France since she was 16, she moved there on a scholarship for her piano playing achievements. Her performances for the royal family were often televised in Iran, which earned her great recognition at a young age.

She told me stories about what it was like to move away from home at around my age and she also shared some photos of my family that I had never seen before, like this one where she can be seen holding on to the roof rack by the driver side door.



Her husband, Rene Jacobs, is a grammy winning soprano singer and conductor. Listening to Rene talk about his process led me to understand the true dedication that one can have to the arts, and how learning never stops throughout your life. He meticulously researches every written account available in order to figure out how the material would have been played centuries ago, and how to cater it to a modern audience. Their entire apartment is lined with books, each having been read multiple times, it's like walking through a musical library. Both of them also love and appreciate great cuisine, so we went to many great authentic french restaurants away from the typical tourist destinations and talked about music and art for hours.



Closing

In order to fully experience the whole city, you would need to stay at least a month! In my 10 days I feel I was able to gain a well rounded experience of Paris and definitely left with an urge to return and explore even more! This was an incredible opportunity that will stick with me throughout my further education at the College for Creative Studies, and my future career in art and design. Thank you very much for your belief and support in the arts, thanks to the efforts of patrons like you and organizations like yours, there's hope that art education can continue to flourish. It is sad that oftentimes arts programs get cut due to budget cuts and other influencing factors.