



SALON de l'ESTAMPE de GRAVELINES
du 18 octobre au 9 novembre 2025
vernissage le 18 octobre à 11 h 30

A unique event in the Hauts-de-France region

The 'Gravure en Nord' print fair will take place in November 2025 at the Museum of Drawing and Original Prints in Gravelines (France). A dozen printmakers will be selected on the basis of their applications to exhibit their work from Saturday 18 October to Sunday 9 November 2025

Greater visibility

The exhibition will take place at the Museum of Drawing and Original Prints in Gravelines, the only French museum dedicated to printed works.

An exceptional setting

You will have the opportunity to exhibit your works in a venue steeped in history, the Arsenal, built 1528 under Charles V.

The Museum

It is the exceptional setting of the 'Salle du Pilier' at the Musée du Dessin et de l'Estampe originale in Gravelines that will serve as the backdrop for the 'Graveurs en Nord' exhibition. This institution is the only French museum dedicated to printmaking, a form of artistic expression which it actively promotes.

The collections are presented on a rotating basis in the 'Exposition impermanente', which is organised around printmaking techniques; the selection of works reflects the museum's current focus. This exhibition is renewed every five months, at the same frequency as the temporary exhibitions, which are either thematic or monographic.

The 'Gravure en Nord' print fair will take place from 18 October to 9 November 2025 for its third edition at the Museum of Drawing and Original Prints in Gravelines (France). A dozen printmakers have been selected to exhibit their work:

Aleksandrov Iurii,
Back Cynthia,
Bascoul Hélène,
Honnart Valérie,
Kernaléguen Brigitte,
Maldague Nicolas,
Meller Kristin,
Putker Jaco,
Samuilova Vitalia,
Thompson Alex,
Vandevorst Rita,
Vasic Pierre and
Vidgrain Amélie.

It was established on the initiative of the Art & Estampe association, with the support of the town of Gravelines and in technical partnership with the Musée du Dessin et de l'Estampe Originale in Gravelines.

A museum unique in France

This institution is the only French museum dedicated to printmaking, a form of artistic expression which it actively promotes.

The collections are presented on a rotating basis in the 'Permanent Exhibition'. Its central theme is printmaking techniques, and the selection of works also reflects the themes of other current exhibitions. The Permanent Exhibition is renewed every five months, in line with the temporary exhibitions, which are themselves either thematic or monographic. Through this constant rotation, the museum highlights the richness of its collections (28,000 works) and offers visitors a completely fresh experience with every visit. The quality of the collection also helps to make this museum a leading institution in its field (the museum's masterpiece is Dürer's 'Apocalypse').

The temporary exhibitions demonstrate the uniqueness and diversity of printmaking, illustrate its history and reflect its contemporary relevance. They showcase the art of the multiple – intimate, rich and generous. Typically, printmaking is the domain of the amateur (from the verb 'to love'), who contemplates the work at close quarters, immersing themselves in its graphic design. When art is printed, it takes many forms. It is created using a point, a gouge, chalk, a chisel, on copper, wood, stone, and so on, from the 15th century to the present day. It is also, by its very nature, a generous art form, as the work is conceived, produced and published by the artist with a view to sharing the prints with a wide audience.

The museum's various departments contribute to the institution's vibrancy through activities such as introductory printmaking workshops, supporting researchers in the specialist library, hosting artists-in-residence, and selling the museum's publications – including catalogues and original prints – in the shop.

Why did printmaking first take root in Gravelines?

For two decades, from the 1960s to the 1980s, an artists' association known as 'Le groupe de Gravelines' organised exhibitions, with the support of the town, which were mainly dedicated to the sale of paintings and sculptures. The association was chaired first by the painter Arthur Van Hecke and then by the sculptor Charles Gadenne. However, the association, whose aim was to contribute to public education, also produced editions of original prints in order to disseminate the works and make them accessible to a wider audience.

Through these artists, the local council began to build up a 'municipal collection of original prints and drawings', including engravings by Marcel Gromaire and Eugène Leroy. The idea of creating a museum of graphic art then emerged, with the aim of preserving and showcasing this heritage. The project received government approval, and the museum was thus established in October 1982.

The museum soon came to focus primarily on printmaking, a vast and little-known field. It is not a museum of printing, but an institution dedicated to printmaking as an art form in its own right. Today, it remains the only Musée de France whose mission is dedicated to original prints.