

# ANTTIQUES

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## Galerie Historismus To Open Sept. 12 In Paris



Henry Van de Velde (Belgian, 1863–1957), three-light chandelier, 1898, brass.



Richard Riemerschmid (German, 1868–1957), "Propeller" table, 1905, mahogany, made by the Dresdner Werkstätten für Handwerkskunst.



Edouard Lievre (French, 1829–1886), cabinet on stand, circa 1875, veneering and solid palisander from Rio.

### Will Specialize In European Decorative Arts Created Between 1840 And 1910

PARIS, FRANCE — Galerie Historismus will open its doors for the first time on September 12, at the historic Hotel de Chaulnes, 9 Place des Vosges, the oldest square in Paris. Owned by an English businessman, Historismus' artistic advisor is Roberto Polo, an art historian and connoisseur. Historismus will receive clients by appointment only. Its objective is to attract an exclusive clientele of serious collectors and museum curators.

Historismus will specialize in European decorative arts of museum quality created by architects and designers between 1840 and 1910, roughly the same period as that shown in the Musée d'Orsay.

It begins with the French Romantic period, when designers such as Claude-Aime Chenavard and Michel Joseph Napoleon Lienard introduced motifs inspired by nature into the decorative arts, a movement that would culminate in Art Nouveau, through the period after 1900, when Belgian, German and Austrian architects, including Henry van de Velde, Paul Hankar, Gustav Serruier-Bovy, Bernard Pankok, Peter Behrens, Patriz Huber, Josef Hoffman and Koloman Moser designed the first Modernist decorative arts on the European continent. Well known in their time, many of these architects and designers, fathers of Modernism, have fallen by the wayside in today's art market.

Many major pieces will be shown. Among the highlights are an exquisite neo-Japanese cabinet-on-stand created circa 1875 by the French painter and designer Edouard Lievre.

It is in palisander from Rio with brass inlay, mounted with finely engraved, gilt and patinated openwork bronzes, ivory incrustations and steel plates with applications of silver thread.

Historismus will also exhibit an extremely rare and important three-light chandelier designed in 1898 by the Belgian architect and painter Henry Van de Velde; a proto-constructivist pair of armchairs designed in 1903 by the Austrian architect Josef Hoffmann for the Wiener Werkstätte.

Historismus will publish an academic catalog describing a selection of the works on exhibit.

The gallery's prestigious location is in the historic Hotel de Chaulnes. Created by King Henri IV in 1605 and finished in 1612, two years after the king's death, Place des Vosges, originally named the Place Royale, was lined with red brick townhouses with stone facing and ground floor arcades. Pavilions for the king and queen were built in the center north and south gateways. Later in the Seventeenth Century, the Place Royal was home to some of Paris' most fashionable aristocrats and society figures, among them Madame de Sevigne, the brilliant writer, who was born there; Marion Delorme, the famous courtesan and saloniste; Jacques Benigne Bossuet, the bishop and champion of the French Catholic Church; and Cardinal Richelieu, the chief minister to Louis XIII.

The Hotel des Chaulnes was the Seventeenth Century home

of the Duke and Duchess of Chaulnes, who filled it with spectacular furnishings and works of art. The widowed Duchess of Chaulnes, gave the townhouse and its contents as a wedding gift to her third son, Charles d'Albert d'Ailly, who inherited the title after the death of his two older brothers.

The new duke lived in an even grander style than his parents and his lavish entertainments were written about in memoirs of the period. Although the duke and duchess were childless, they had 51 servants, 21 horses, six coaches and two sedan chairs. Cramped for space, they even had an extension built on the townhouse. In 1802, the square was renamed the Place des Vosges, after the first provincial department to pay its taxes.

Galerie Historismus occupies four linked rooms on the etage noble (first floor) and one room on the courtyard of the Hotel de Chaulnes. Many of the original details have been preserved: a ceiling painted as a sky, finely carved doorframes surrounded with garlands of fruits and flowers and a monumental marble fireplace.

Renovation of the gallery will be undertaken by decorator Francois-Joseph Graf. Very few visible changes will be made to the interior, as both the building and the gallery space are historical landmarks. Two of the four rooms will be painted and a floor in "parquet de Versailles" will be installed in one room where it is missing. The entry room has its original black and white stone floor.

For information, 42 712160 or [www.historismus.com](http://www.historismus.com).

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