

musée de l'imprimerie



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13,
rue de la Poulallerie
Lyon 2^e

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www.
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Les amis
du Musée
de l'imprimerie
Lyon

et de la communication graphique

THE MUSEUM OF PRINTING AND GRAPHIC

COMMUNICATION will be presenting, from April 12th until September 22nd, the exhibition *Rescued books: an odyssey*. The exhibition will take the visitor on a journey across the centuries, across continents, world and national events, tracing books which have been annihilated, shredded, threatened, wounded... but have triumphed over their vicissitudes thanks to women and men who have rescued them. The exhibition will feature the remarkable fates of fifty works and documents.

BOOKS AS HEROES

Far from being a sad commemoration, this Odyssey is a voyage full of hope, in the company of women and men who have loved books. We wanted to avoid focussing on periods or situations which were especially difficult for book collections, such as the Second World War or dictatorships. Life's accidents (being abandoned or lost, theft, fire, flood, the ravages of time, illness...) affect books too and that is what makes them strangely human. Each work or document displayed here is the hero of its own adventure, surviving testing times (sometimes happily, sometimes less so) because a man or a woman has lent a helping hand. We rescue books because we love them and, it seems, they love us in return, adding to our joys, consolations, memories, survival.

STRUCK, FORBIDDEN, DISPERSED, SAVIOURS

The exhibition is divided into four "scenes" evoking the perils overcome by books and their liberators: Lightning – books under attack; Index – forbidden books; Exile – dispersed books; Talismans – books that save.

The Odyssey is set against an unexpected backdrop, that of an "exhibition forest" in which seven totem-poles rise up like trees. The visitor travels with the works and their lost and found pages, follows the map of their dramas and re-births, relaxes in a space where he can get to know a book and its smuggler better. There are few display-cases, so as to avoid imprisoning creations that have already suffered enough, but there are stories, images, "auras" conjured up by powerful pages and remarkable men and women. Fourteen flamboyant illustrations by the artist Yann Damezin pay homage to these books that have returned from their *Odyssey*.

"BIBLIODYSSÉES" TO ACCOMPANY THE EXHIBITION

Published by Actes Sud, in their collection Imprimerie nationale/Arts du livre, the book *BibliOdyssees* follows the order of the exhibition and relates, in fifty chapters, the extraordinary destinies of the items displayed in *Rescued books: an odyssey*. These fifty histories, full of surprises and unforeseen developments, are preceded by two masterly texts by the authors Kamel Daoud and Raphaël Jerusalmy, who wished to add their sensibility, experience and erudition to the theme presented by the Museum.

THE EXHIBITION AND THE ASSISES INTERNATIONALES DU ROMAN

At the Subsistances, 21th to 26th May 2019, the Assises internationales du roman echo the *Odyssey*. The programme for this event, which attracts international authors every year, has some surprises in store, linked with our exhibition.



Saved from the flames and restored, **Cicero's Letters to friends**, published by Étienne Dolet in Lyon, 1542

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Photo J.-L. Bouchier

The "Mud angels" saved books from the National Library during the flood in Florence in 1966.

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With the authorization of Ministero dei beni e della attività culturali / Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze

Relations presse
Actes Sud

Sophie Patey
s.patey@actes-sud.fr
T. 01 55 42 14 43
06 67 23 33 91

Musée de l'Imprimerie
et de la Communication graphique

13, rue de la Poulallerie
69002 Lyon
www.imprimerie.lyon.fr

RESCUED BOOKS:
AN ODYSSEY

Exhibition from April 12th
to September 22nd 2019

Open Wednesday
to Sunday inclusive
from 10.30 am to 6.00 pm

In *Imperial Bedrooms*, Bret Easton Ellis tells how books have saved him from suicide.

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