

The background is a Romantic-style painting. It features a woman in a long, flowing purple dress with a red shawl draped over her head and shoulders. She is looking to the right. Behind her is a large, vibrant red shape, possibly a flag or a piece of fabric. In the background, there are other figures, including one in a dark coat and hat on the right, and some foliage on the left. The overall style is expressive and dramatic, with strong contrasts and visible brushstrokes.

SILEX
films

arte
SALES

THE ADVENTURERS OF ART

ROMANTICISM

4x52'

A 2D ANIMATED SERIES

WRITTEN BY DAN FRANCK & DIRECTED BY AMÉLIE HARRAULT

DELIVERY 2021

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

TITLE

The Adventurers of Art, Romanticism

GENRE

Documentary series

TARGET AUDIENCE

+ 10 to 99 years old

LENGTH

4 x 52'

SUPPORT

Original Illustrations, Animation & Archives

TECHNIQUES

100% 2D traditional animation (paper cut-outs, glass painting, pencil, pen, ink, watercolor, clay modeling, live-action/shooting on green screen), 3D for the creation of the characters and settings.

TIME PERIOD & LOCATION OF THE STORY

19th Century Paris

COLLECTION

The Adventurers of Art

SEASON

2

AUTHOR

Dan Franck

DIRECTOR

Amélie Harrault

MUSIC COMPOSER

Pierre Adenot

HEAD RESEARCHER

Olivier Paoli

HISTORICAL ADVISOR

Séverine Charon

BUDGET

3,5 M €

ANIMATION STUDIO

Silex Animation (France)

PRODUCERS

Silex Films - Priscilla Bertin / Judith Nora

CO-PRODUCER & BROADCASTER

ARTE France - Arts and Culture Unit

DEVELOPMENT (WRITING AND GRAPHIC RESEARCH)

until September 2018

PRODUCTION

September 2018 to May 2020

PROVISIONAL DELIVERY

2021

PITCH

A portrayal of the 19th century Parisian art and literary scene through the intimate lives of the most respected painters, writers, musicians of the time; artists who broke new grounds in the history of art and ideas.

Their names are: Victor Hugo, George Sand, Nadar, Frédéric Chopin, Eugène Delacroix, Gustave Courbet, Charles Baudelaire, Honoré de Balzac, Marie d'Agoult, Alexandre Dumas. All of whom fought for their freedom of speech, creative freedom and political and religious liberties.

Their intertwined destinies are incredibly romantic, and their timeless world visions are still relevant today.

TEASER

<https://vimeo.com/262242877>

password: 15h67



CONCEPT

The aim of this series is to tell stories with **very high artistic standards in 2D animation** and rejuvenate characters that had been sleeping in history books, while making them alive and real close to us. History as seen through the eyes of the main protagonists of the time. Artists always witness stories of love, hope, joy, conflict and tragedy. Extraordinary heroes.

Set in the heart of Paris, with a distinctive visual identity, intense painting strokes, meeting the standards of these periods' incredible artistic profusion.

An innovative, timeless and indispensable heritage collection. Because it is time to do justice to this period in the history of art and culture, which is part of the high school curriculum. This collection is an invaluable educational tool that will awaken interest in poetry, painting & music, which we as adolescents would have dreamed of. This engaging animation will provide students with the necessary keys to telling stories they can understand.

The Adventurers of Art, Romanticism is the prequel to *The Adventurers of Modern Art*, the second season of our collection *The Adventurers of Art*.

Using the traditional codes of fiction in our narrative both seasons unite **an award-winning creative team**: director Amélie Harrault (César Award for Best Animated Short in 2014) and Dan Franck, author of *Carlos*, mini-series by Olivier Assayas (Official Selection - Cannes 2010, Golden Globe for Best Mini-Series 2011).



SUMMARY OF THE EPISODES

EPISODE 1 (1830 – 1840)

1830 is a turning point in France. On the political scene, the Revolution of July restores the monarchy and Louis-Philippe on the throne. The country's turmoil can be felt everywhere in the artistic sphere and through the challenging of the established order. On the artistic scene, Victor Hugo initiates this shift with his scandalous play *Hernani* that triggers a passionate argument between the Ancients and the Moderns. A circle of intellectuals gathers around Hugo. Among them, Lamartine, Dumas, Balzac, but also Musset, Delacroix, Chopin, Liszt and even Berlioz and Sand. Dumas and Balzac are the two prominent albeit rival writers of the time and they both work with major newspapers which publish their serialized novels. During this decade, the rich Parisian intellectual elite gathers in the muffled atmosphere of the Salons, notably Marie d'Agoult's; people meet on the Ile Saint Louis or in the New Athens neighborhood. George Sand dresses as a man to go to the theater, moves from one lover to the next (Jules Sandeau, Marie Dorval, Chopin) asserts herself as a writer, paving the way to emancipation for many women.

EPISODE 2 (1841 – 1850)

While Baudelaire explores “artificial paradises” in secret places, Franz Liszt and Marie d'Agoult split up after a passionate relationship, George Sand and Chopin live their lives made of travels and stays in the Castle of Rohant. Gérard de Nerval leads a bohemian life alongside Théophile Gautier and experiences his first dementia crisis that will lead him to a tragic end. While Dumas publishes his best seller *The Three Musketeers*, his rival Balzac finally lives his relationship with Mrs Hanska in the open. The undisputed Hugo continues to rise and nurtures his relations with a view to gaining access to French most prestigious institutions. In 1841, he becomes a Member of the French Academy, but secretly aims at the House of Peers. When the 1848 Revolution hits Paris, Hugo stands with the people and supports the Second Republic proclaimed by Lamartine, the other great political poet of that time.



EPISODE 3 (1851 – 1860)

Following Napoleon III's political « coup » on December 2, 1851, Hugo is forced into exile, first to Belgium, then to Jersey and Guernsey, along with his faithful mistress Juliette Drouet. Many others are also forced to leave, among them Dumas, Hetzel and Girardin. In Paris however, the intellectual life goes on in the Salons of the Princess Mathilde, rue de Courcelles, or Julie Bonaparte, rue de Lille. Paris undergoes a radical transformation driven by Baron Haussmann and the massive renovation program for Paris launched in 1854. Meanwhile, our romantic heroes continue to hit the headlines and challenge accepted standards of behavior: in 1856, Flaubert is charged with outrage against religion and public morality following the publication of *Madam Bovary*, and one year later, the poems *Les Fleurs du Mal* by Baudelaire give rise to a resounding trial. Despite a decree granting amnesty to artists in exile, signed by Napoleon III in 1859, Hugo upholds his position: “When freedom is back, I will come back”.

EPISODE 4 (1861 – 1870)

Dumas, the son of a famous general, also distinguishes himself in battles: after participating in the 1830 and 1848 revolutions, he decides in 1860 to support Garibaldi's troops who are about to march on Naples by selling some of his personal property. Victor Hugo is very inspired and prolific during his exile; in 1862 he writes *Les Misérables*. He also develops a growing interest in Spiritism, then a fashionable practice, to connect to the dear ones he has lost. At the 1863 Salon, in a completely transformed capital city following 20 years of renovation work, Courbet and Manet are the talk of the town and surprise the art critics with their bold styles. Nadar, first known as a caricaturist, then as a photographer, has a thriving studio Boulevard des Capucines: all the great artists come to him to have their portraits done. When the battle of 1870 draws near, Nadar, a visionary mind with a great interest in balloons, takes part in the city's siege by the Prussians and produces the very first aerial photograph. Soon after Hugo comes back to Paris and is greeted by a huge crowd. A living legend, he dies in 1885: at his state funeral of unprecedented size, a huge cortege, several kilometers long, escorts him to the Pantheon.



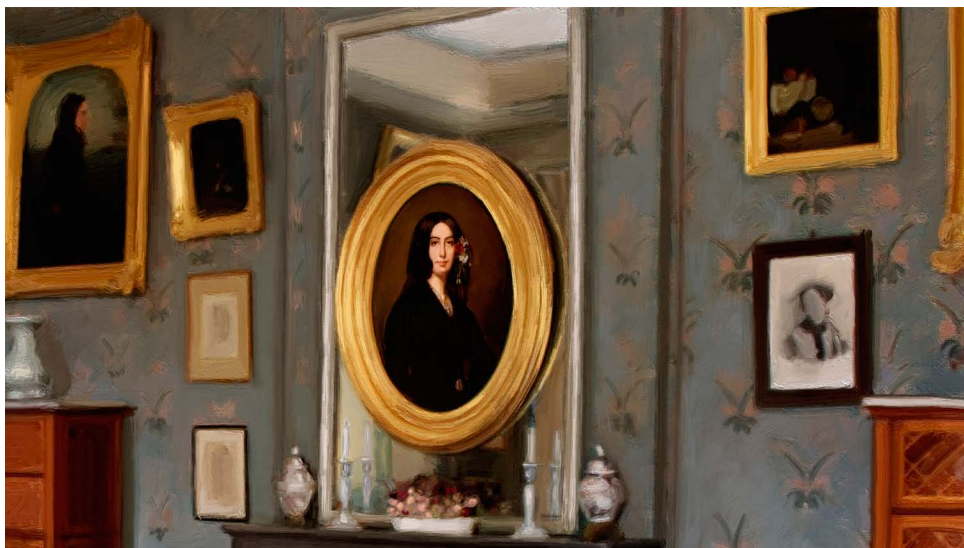
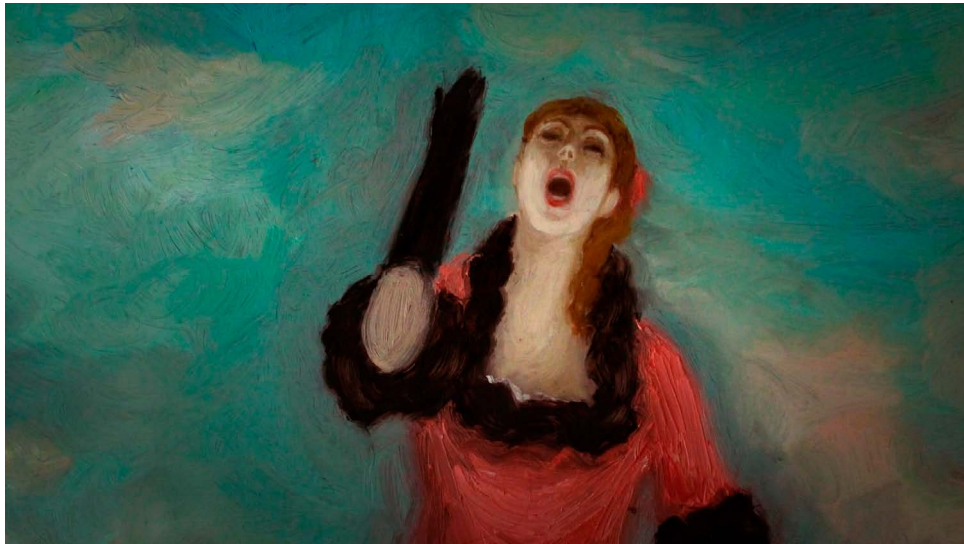
ARTISTIC APPROACH

The narrative arc will be carefully sculpted using a mix of historical details and novelistic atmosphere and will share common references with fiction such as recurring characters and cliff-hangers. An omniscient narrator will relate the stories of our heroes in the present, “as if we were there.” The narrator is in every studio, every party and every war. He opens for us the doors to painters’ studios, writers’ rooms and cafés.

The city of Paris is an autonomous character. It’s the time of a great mutation for the capital, going from an unhealthy city of the Middle Age to the great “Haussmannian” Paris as we do not know it nowadays. The atmosphere and architecture will enhance this vision: from the theaters and bourgeois houses’ spectacular interiors to the streets and lively parks, from artists’ workshops with beautiful glass walls to intimate and opulent-looking Salons... The Parisian life is in full swing at this turning point of History. The viewer will feel this vivid explosion of life, of colors and light, but also the seasons and the years passing by.

Through her animation work, Amélie Harrault has impressive command of the game of re-appropriation of a rough historical material, to make it relevant, while always serving the narrative. Amélie Harrault with her team will use more than a dozen artistic and animation techniques (glass painting, traditional animation, compositing, digital, drawing, paper cut-outs, pastel, glass painting, pencil, pen, ink, watercolor, clay modeling, live-action/shooting on green screen, 3D for the creation of the characters and settings.) They will develop subtly throughout the episodes, depending on the protagonists and movements being portrayed. By personifying our narrative, embodying it through sensitive and sensual materials of particular relevance to our purpose, we introduce a new visual grammar mixing different techniques of 2D and 3D animation.

The animation process enables not only to tell the historical facts but also to get closer to the emotions experienced by the characters. Elements which are difficult to render with traditional tools such as archives footage, photographs, filmed interviews, can be portrayed through animation without going into the fictional process. Re-creation, illustration, humor and poetry, these narrative techniques merge together, ultimately bordering on film genres while offering a relevant point of view on the real world.



THE TEAM

DIRECTOR / AMELIE HARRAULT is a multi-faceted artist who first studied at Toulouse School of Fine Arts, then at EMCA, Angoulême's school of animation. She directed the 6 episodes of *The Adventurers of Modern Art* (6x52', 2015, ARTE). Her short film *Kiki of Montparnasse* won the **Cesar Award for Best Animated Short** in 2014, and the Emile Reynaud Prize 2013, awarded by the members of the French Animated Film Association; it was selected in more than 200 festivals worldwide.

AUTHOR / DAN FRANCK is a **Golden Globe winner** (Best Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television) for his work on the series *Carlos* by Olivier Assayas, which also premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2010. He is a prolific novelist and a successful scriptwriter in France. *The Adventurers of Modern Art*, the first volume of the collection '*The Adventurers of Art*' was an adaptation by himself of his bestseller trilogy *Bohemian Paris*, *Libertad! Midnight*. Released in 2015, the 6 episodes series was a great success in France and internationally, sold in more than 30 countries. Dan Franck also wrote the two seasons of Netflix's first French production, *Marseille*.

COMPOSER / PIERRE ADENOT was classically trained at the Lyon National Academy of Music. He quickly established himself as a gifted arranger and orchestrator for pop French singers (Johnny Hallyday, Charles Aznavour) who brings rich and subtle musical colors to each project. A composer for the cinema, TV and advertising, his work includes *Paris I love you* (directed by several filmmakers including Wes Craven, Alexander Payne, Richard LaGravenese) and *Beauty and the Beast*, directed by Christophe Gans (2014). Pierre Adenot has garnered critical acclaim for his work and won several awards, including the **«SACEM Grand Prix for music composition for film»** in 2015.



SEASON 1

THE ADVENTURERS OF MODERN ART (20th CENTURY)

6X52' / 2015

- Pre sold in 10 countries

- Sold in 30 countries

Channels : SKY UK / SKY ARTS (UK) - CESKA TELEVIZE (Czech Republic) - TV UNAM (Mexico) - SKY ARTS & RAI 5 (Italy) - SKY NETWORK TELEVISION LIMITED (New Zealand) - GLOBOSAT & NEWCO PROGRAMADORA E PRODUTORA DE COMUNICACAO (Brasil) - ARTV (Canada) - FOXTEL (Australia) - SRF, SCHWEIZER RADIO UND FERNSEHEN (Switzerland) - KULTURA TV & RED MEDIA GROUP (Russia) - PBS THAI (Thailand) - XIII BIS PRODUCTION & SHANGHAI MEDIA GROUP & DA NENG (China) - AVROTROS (the Netherlands) - SKY LIFE (Korea) - YLE, YLEISRADIO, FINNISH BROADCASTING COMPANY (Finland) - RTP, RADIOTELEVISAO PORTUGUESA (Portugal) - INTL TV SERVICES (USA) - DR TV, DANISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (Denmark) - RTS SERBIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (Serbia) - HELLENIC PARLIAMENT TV (Greece) - IBA, ISRAEL BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (Israel) - HISTORY CHANNEL (Russia) - RADIO & TELEVISION OF MONTENEGRO

- 25 000 DVDs sold in France

- Replay for 60 days and accessible to all Europe (Media)

- Best Arts & Performance Program at the Rockie Awards / Banff World Media Festival 2016 (Canada)

- Best Documentary, French Syndicate of Cinema Critics 2015

- Input 2016 (Calgary, Canada)

Through illustrations, animation and original archives, this 6x52' series plunges us into Parisian life in the beginning of the 20th century, a hotbed of artistic creation with the blossoming of Fauvism, Cubism, Dadaism, and Surrealism. The main characters are called Picasso, Max Jacob, Gertrude Stein, Dali, Man Ray, Apollinaire, Hemingway, Matisse, Cocteau, Kiki... artists, art dealers, muses who came to France from all over Europe and left an indelible mark on the 20th century. These glorious subversives were adventurers before becoming heroes.



SILEX FILMS

Based in Paris, SILEX FILMS is an independent film company created and run by Priscilla Bertin and Judith Nora, with an eclectic line up of features, TV fictions, creative documentaries, multimedia and art works. In 2014 SILEX FILMS inaugurated SILEX ANIMATION, a 2D studio in Angoulême, France.

Silex has produced several features including *The Parisian Bitch*, *Princess of hearts* (2015) coproduced with LGM Cinéma and Gaumont, starring actress Camille Cottin (1.2 million admissions in France). In Fall 2018 two international coproductions will be released: *With the wind* by Swiss director Bettina Oberli sold internationally by Be For Films, and *Passed by censor* by Turkish director Serhat Karaaslan, sold internationally by BAC Films.

Silex has collaborated with ARTE channel on numerous projects including the 6x52' series *The Adventurers of Modern Art*, but also the digital series French Touch about the history of French electronic music and soon its sequel French Game about the history of French Rap music.

Among many other feature and TV projects, Silex is currently producing another major animated series: *Brazen*, a 30x3'30" series adaptation of Pénélope Bagieu's international bestseller (ed. Gallimard & Macmillan, 2016-2018) with French public national TV broadcaster France Télévisions.

SILEX ANIMATION

Silex Film's 2D studio is based in Angoulême, France. In charge of creating all the animation projects produced by Silex, it also executive produces projects for other companies. Silex Animation is currently producing two international 2D series: *Brazen* (30x3'30) with French national broadcaster France Télévisions and *The Adventurers Of Art : Romanticism* (4x52') with ARTE, written by Dan Franck, directed by Amélie Harrault.

Céline Payot-Lehmann

Head of International Distribution

c-payot-lehmann@arteFrance.fr

Isabelle Monteil

Sales Manager

Territories: Asia, Greece
Oceania, Africa,
Language versions

i-monteil@arteFrance.fr

Sophie Soghomonian

Sales Manager

Territories: Eastern Europe,
Israel, Russia,
Worldwide Non-Theatrical Rights

s-soghomonian@arteFrance.fr

Audrey Kamga

Sales Manager

Territories: Canada, Ireland, MENA region,
Portugal, South America, Spain, UK and USA
Worldwide Inflight

a-kamga@arteFrance.fr

Franka Schwabe

Sales Manager

Territories: Austria, Belgium, France,
Germany, Scandinavia, Iceland,
Switzerland, Netherlands

f-schwabe@arteFrance.fr

Florent Rocchi

Sales Assistant

f-rocchi@arteFrance.fr