

# ...The Centre Pompidou-Metz Spotlights Suzanne Valadon, Almost Sixty Years after the Artist's Last Retrospective in France

## Exhibition Announcements

**April 13, 2023**

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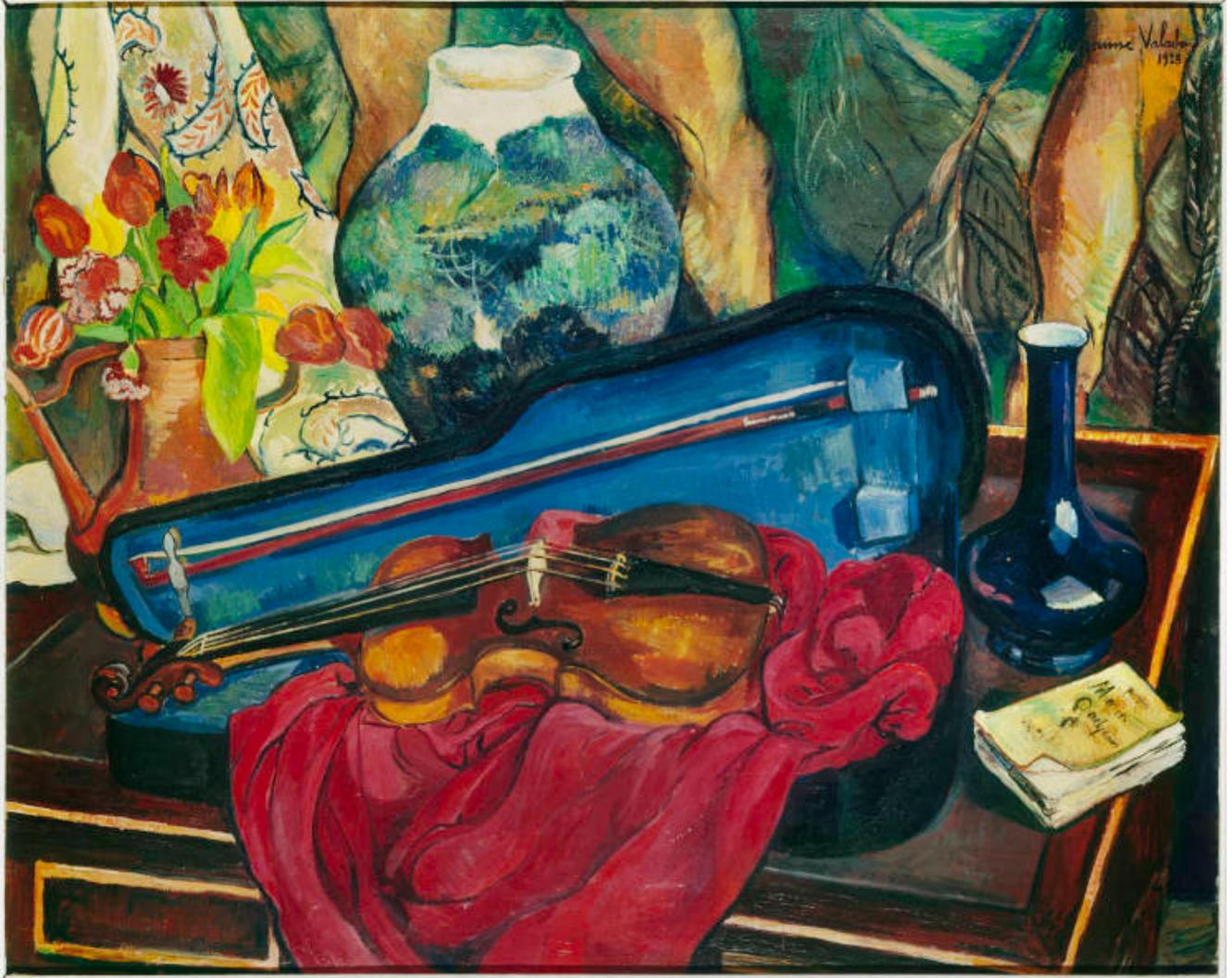
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Born in 1865 in Bessines-sur-Gartempe as Marie Clémentine Valadon, **Suzanne Valadon**, moved with her mother as a child to prosperous Montmartre in search of a better life. As a young girl, Valadon joined a circus and worked as an acrobat and trapeze artist under the stage name "Suzanne." However, her circus career was cut short at the age of 15 due to a serious injury when she fell from a trapeze, which forced her to find a new vocation. It was then that she turned to art and began modeling for artists in Montmartre, including Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Jean-Jacques Henner.

During her work as a model, Valadon became familiar with different artistic techniques, styles, and subject matter, and she gained an understanding of the artistic process. Inspired by her exposure to the art world as a model, Valadon began to develop her own interest in painting. In 1909 she decided to devote herself fully to art and started exhibiting her work more regularly.

Celebrating the life and legacy of Suzanne Valadon, Centre Pompidou Metz is hosting the exhibition *Suzanne Valadon, A World of*

Compiègne-Metz is hosting the exhibition *Suzanne Valadon. A World of Her Own*, curated by Chiara Parisi. This is the first retrospective of the artist in almost sixty years.



Suzanne Valadon - La Boîte à violon, 1923. Paris, musée d'Art moderne de Paris © Photo RMN-Grand Palais / Agence Bulloz

## A World of Her Own

For many decades, art history ignored the oeuvre of Suzanne Valadon. She was **almost forgotten**, and her work incurred little interest up until recently. However, as the exhibition demonstrates, her art has a resolutely contemporary character, although it was regarded as marginal to the dominant trends of her era.

The exhibition *A World of Her Own* presents over **200 works** that are rarely shown in France, including Edgar Degas's personal collection and important works from the Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and other institutions.

The exhibition highlights the richness of Valdon's corpus, which is examined within the artistic and historical context. The display does not follow any chronological or thematic classification and instead focus on her personal trajectory as an artist and an in-depth exploration of her art.



**Left:** Suzanne Valadon - Deux figures, 1909. Paris, Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne © Centre Pompidou /

**Right:** Suzanne Valadon - Portrait d'Erik Satie, 1892-1893. Paris, Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne © Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Bertrand Prévost

## The Highlights

The exhibition features works by Valadon as well as her portraits made by other artists. Most notably, those include the drawings made by **Puvis de Chavannes** between 1883 and 1889, when she was his favorite model, Toulouse-Lautrec's *Fat Maria* (1884), and Pierre-Auguste Renoir's *Dance in the City* (1883).

In 1883, Valadon gave birth to her son Maurice and also made her first self-portrait in pastel that bears her name, which is also on display. Valadon was the first woman to be admitted to the **Salon de**

display. Valadon was the first woman to be admitted to the Salon de la Société National des Beaux-Arts, and she also exhibited regularly at Berthe Weill's gallery, at the Salon des Indépendants, and the Salon d'Automne. She died suddenly in 1938, leaving behind over 500 canvases and 300 works on paper.

Included in the show is also her painting *Summer*, also known as *Adam and Eve*, which she exhibited at the Salon d'Automne. It features the first figure of a male nude painted by a woman in modern art, representing her husband, **André Utter**, while she depicted herself as Eve next to him.



Suzanne Valadon - Autoportrait aux seins nus, 1931. Paris, Collection Bernardeau © akg-images

## Suzanne Valadon at Centre Pompidou-Metz

Suzanne Valadon's work remains significant today for her unique artistic style, innovative approach to composition and subject matter,

and her pioneering achievements as one of the few successful female artists of her time. Her paintings continue to inspire contemporary artists, represent female empowerment, and hold art historical importance as trailblazers in the art world.

The exhibition *Suzanne Valadon. A World of Her Own* will be on view at Centre Pompidou-Metz in Metz **until September 11th, 2023**.

Featured image: Suzanne Valadon - Catherine nue allongée sur une peau de panthère, 1923 © Lucien Arkas Collection. Photo Hadiye Cangokce