

The state of the arts

Five new museums we can't wait to visit post-pandemic

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Despite the pandemic putting much of the world on pause, some highly anticipated art institutions are slated to open their doors this year. We surveyed five of the most exciting new cultural hubs to check out when we can travel more freely again.

If you appreciate architecture as much as art: Bourse de Commerce — Pinault Collection

Where: Paris, France

Anticipated opening: Spring/Summer 2021

François Pinault, the billionaire president of the Kering Group, which owns Gucci, Saint Laurent and several other luxury fashion brands, is finally preparing to open his museum in Paris's old stock exchange. An avid collector of contemporary works and supporter of artists and art historians, Pinault already has two museums in Venice and a blue-chip collection of at least 5,000 pieces by the likes of Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman and Louise Bourgeois.

This museum, restored by his long-time collaborator Tadao Ando, the award-winning Japanese architect, aims to share Pinault's collection with as broad an audience as possible. It will be a sight to see. Ando has transformed the landmark building, which features a panoramic mural under a glass-topped dome, and created a three-tier concrete structure in his signature minimalist style, marrying the past and present.

If you're obsessed with ancient civilizations: Grand Egyptian Museum

Where: Giza, Egypt

Anticipated opening: Mid-2021

Travellers visiting Egypt have long flocked to the crowded old Egyptian Museum in Cairo, but when the Grand Egyptian Museum opens in Giza, it will be as much of a must-visit as the Louvre is for visitors to Paris. And like the Louvre, it will be too massive to tackle in one day. The state-of-the-art museum addresses many of the shortfalls of the Egyptian Museum: It's more easily accessible for people visiting the pyramids and has much more space for the collections and better acoustics. It was designed to avoid overcrowding and has high-tech conservation labs — crucial when you're dealing with archeological relics more than 2,000 years old.

"The new museum would be worth a trip to Egypt on its own. It is absolutely stunning," says Marcia Gordon, founder of the luxury tour operator Extraordinary Journeys, who did a hard-hat tour pre-pandemic. "To have over 5,000 artifacts from one young king in one place gives a whole new dimension to our understanding of the vastness and wealth of ancient Egypt."

If you're seeking a storybook setting: H.C. Andersen's House

Where: Odense, Denmark

Anticipated opening: Summer 2021

It's only fitting that the home of Hans

Christian Andersen, one of the world's most famous authors of children's books, makes visitors feel as if they've been transported to a fairy-tale land. In fact, Japanese architect Kengo Kuma found inspiration for the design in one of Andersen's earliest stories, "The Tin-dertbox."

Located in Andersen's birthplace of Odense, a 90-minute train ride from Copenhagen on the island of Funen, the destination features a magical garden, a children's house and an underground museum exhibiting multimedia pieces by 12 artists tasked with interpreting Andersen's universe. Visitors will find a massive tree installation by Brazilian artist Henrique Oliveira, audio works by Danish composer Louise Alenius, and puppets by British creator Andy Gent, all of which aim to bring stories like "The Little Mermaid," "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Snow Queen" to life.

If you're into thought-provoking modern art: M+

Where: Hong Kong

Anticipated opening: Late 2021

Hong Kong's M+ is poised to place the semi-autonomous Chinese city on the world's art stage. Billions of dollars have been invested in the museum, which was designed by renowned firm Herzog & de Meuron in the West Kowloon Cultural District, and aims to spotlight modern and contemporary art and design from Hong Kong and the rest of Asia. The building features 17,000 square metres of exhibition space, three cinemas, performance venues, a lecture theatre, cafés and a rooftop terrace with views of Victoria Harbour.

The museum recently came under scrutiny for allegedly violating China's new national security law, with pro-Beijing politicians attacking some controversial works in the collection, including a photograph of Ai Weiwei raising a middle finger in front of Tiananmen Square.

If you're a fan of film history: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

Where: Los Angeles

When: September 2021

Tinseltown's highly anticipated museum dedicated to filmmaking is almost ready for the spotlight. Owned and operated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the museum encompasses 4,600 square metres of exhibition space, two theatres, a restaurant, a shop and an education centre. Award-winning architect Renzo Piano has just completed the modern addition on the Art Deco-style Saban Building, originally built in 1939.

The collection includes props like Dorothy's ruby slippers from "The Wizard of Oz," cameras from the 1950s and other memorabilia, but the most exciting aspect of the museum will be its programming. Temporary exhibitions and talks will address issues like the #MeToo movement and racism in historic films, and celebrate underappreciated artists such as Anna May Wong. Ahead of the opening, virtual events will kick-start the programming, including screenings and conversations with filmmakers like Spike Lee.



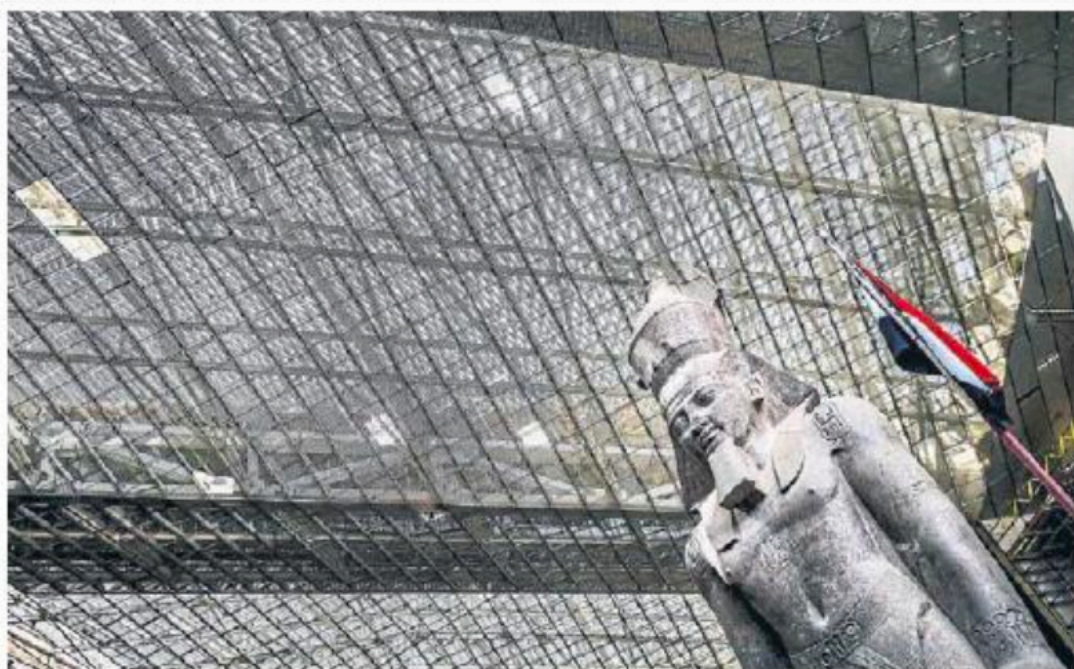
MARC DOMAGE BOURSE DE COMMERCE — PINAULT COLLECTION

Bourse de Commerce — Pinault Collection is a museum set to open in Paris this year.



ACADEMY MUSEUM FOUNDATION

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles will open its doors in September.



MOHAMED EL-SHAHED AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Pharaoh Ramesses II on display at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza.



VIRGILE SIMON BERTRAND HERZOG & DE MEURON

The M+ building in Hong Kong, viewed from Victoria Harbour.



Hawaii, Tahiti & South Pacific Crossing!