# Lumière!

## LE CINÉMA INVENTÉ

The exhibition is devoted to the Lyon-based pioneers of cinema, Louis and Auguste Lumière, and their leading inventions in the image sector. Exhibition previously on show in: Paris, Bologna, Lyon.

**November 23rd 2019-September 6th 2020**

**Palais Lumière Evian**

Palais Lumière · ville Evian · haute savoie le Département · La Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes · Institut Lumière · Le Figaro.fr · Télérama

**From the programme for the Cinematograph's first public screening** and the endless reel of 1422 Lumière films to the model of the Lumière factories, 19th century optical toys, posters, Autochromes and panoramic or 3D pictures, visitors delve deep into the depths of the Lumières' creativity.

As both the accomplishment of previous attempts and foundation of an art form that is still revolutionising how we see the world, the story of the Cinematograph is the exhibition's central theme.

Evian Council hosts the exhibition in the building that was renamed «Palais Lumière» in 2006 in tribute to the Lumières' contribution to the town, namely the villa that Antoine Lumière bought in 1896 which became the Town Hall in 1927.

The exhibition also presents 10 Lumière films that were shot in Evian between 1896 and 1900.

**Lumière, an industrial Lyon saga**

The photographer Antoine Lumière explored photographic innovations of the time with his young sons at the end of the 19th century. In 1881, 17 year old Louis' design of an easy-to-use «dry» photographic plate created a boom in amateur photographers and sparked the family's business success.

The **«Antoine Lumière and sons» business became the leading European company in photographic plates**. The Lumière brothers were already successful businessmen when they invented the Cinematograph in 1895 and were constantly innovating in the world of photography and cinema.

**Auguste and Louis Lumière in their laboratory, circa 1925. institut Lumière Collection.**

Aerial view of the Lumière factories, 1896. institut Lumière Collection.

## The Cinematograph, a technique accomplishment and founding act

The desire to project and animate images came long before the Cinematograph. The projection of still images began in the 17th century with **magic lanterns**. The 19th century saw **optical toys such as the Thaumatrope and Praxinoscope** put **drawings into motion**.

The **chronophotography** captured movement in several photographic frames. **A turning point came when Thomas Edison invented the Kinetograph** to record images **and the Kinetoscope** to view them.

Lapierre magic lantern, circa 1850 Jean Luc mege Photo. institut Lumière Collection.

**suzanne, madeleine and Andrée: the Lumière cousins on the golfe des Lecques near La Ciotat, 1910. Autochrome Lumière plate. Lumière family. institut Lumière Collection.**

To make viewing motion pictures a collective experience rather than an individual one, the Lumière brothers focused on enlarging series of motion photographs on a screen. They drew on all the previous discoveries and created the **Cinematograph** which they **patented on February 13th 1895**.

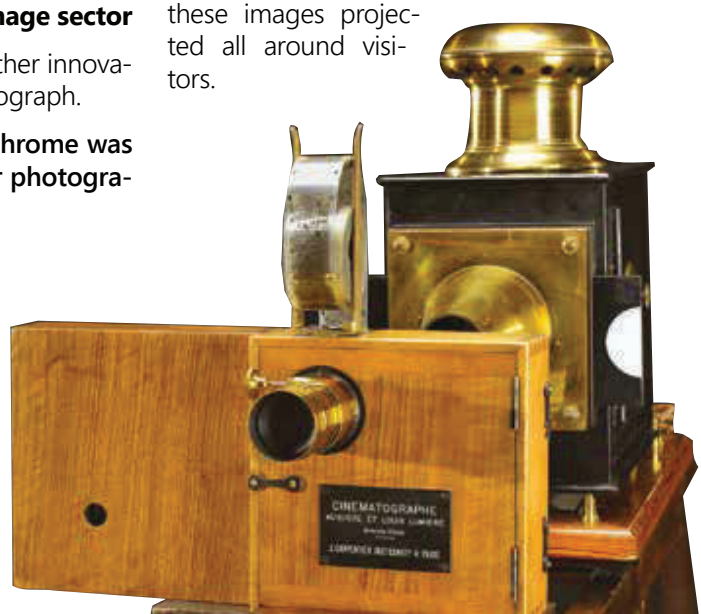
## Major inventions in the image sector

Louis Lumière was behind other innovations as well as the Cinematograph.

Patented in 1903, **the Autochrome was the first commercial colour photography process**.

He designed the **Lumière Kinorain** 1896, a reel to flick through images from Lumière films to bring motion pictures to the general public.

Patented in 1900, the **Photorama** projected 360° photographs in a round room. The exhibition presents a reconstruction of the dizzying spectacle of these images projected all around visitors.




**Projection of cinematograph n°1, December 1895.**
**Pierre Aubert photo. institut Lumière Collection The first film camera produced in series from late December 1895, the Cinematograph enables users to film shots, project images and issue copies.**

Lounge Kinora, 1900 and hand-held Kinora, 1910. Pierre Aubert photo. Institut Lumière Collection.

He experimented with **3D stereoscopic films**. But the public objected to having to wear glasses. The 1935 remake of *L'Arrivée du train en gare de La Ciotat* is presented at the exhibition with a device that doesn't require glasses.

**The 1422 films corridor (Lumière! Le cinéma inventé (The invention of Cinema) exhibition in Bologna, 2016). Paul François photo. institut Lumière Collection.**

Lumière Photorama Projector, 1901. Pierre Aubert photo. Institut Lumière Collection.

## A radical change in how we see the world and our methods

The Cinematograph is far more than a technical feat. The Cinematograph is cinema itself.

Louis Lumière's venture encapsulates a creative inspiration, imagination and vision of the world that are priceless. **By exploring staging, inventing subjects that**

**would inspire hundreds of directors and sending operators all over the world, Lumière became the first film director**.

The Lumières' films opened **a window onto the world** depicting everyday life at the time and providing a never-before-seen look at far-flung countries and cultures. They epitomise the creation of cinematographic writing and the development of a major new form of artistic expression.

The Cinematograph also created a **new form of collective entertainment** with the first public film screening on December 28th 1895. Even now when films are filmed digitally, the public has never stopped laughing, crying and shivering with excitement in the dark rooms.

## From analogue to digital

Since the invention of the film reel printing light onto its delicate surface, cinema has seen countless technical evolutions. The move from physical analogue to virtual digital has had a significant effect on «filming» systems, screening methods and how we view images, questioning the future of the collective cinema experience compared to the individual experience on a mobile phone screen.

*What We Leave Behind* **de Stephan Crasneanscki, Série 2014. Photo Pascal Amoyel. ilan Engel gallery.**

**Villa Lumière**

The Villa Lumière is next to the Palais Lumière. Antoine Lumière bought the unfinished villa in 1896. He altered the plans to make it a lovely holiday home where he and his family lived until 1924. He bought a neighbouring plot to the west to bring the property's living area to over 500m$^2$ with a huge terrace and garden with a pool. It oozes opulence from its neo-classical exterior and eclectic interior. The imposing oak front door is adorned by bronze bas-reliefs depicting painting and sculpture. It is framed by two atlases, Pierre Puget replicas (17$^{th}$ century), supporting a fronton bearing a sun in reference to the family name (light). The lakeside door is topped by a bronze copy of Michelangelo's The Thinker. The Villa Lumière, a «monument historique», has been Evian's Town Hall since 1927.

*Free entry Monday-Friday: 9am-11.30am and 1.30pm-5pm.*

**Le salon doré**

## Useful information

Palais Lumière Evian (quai Charles-Albert Besson).

Daily 10am-6pm (Monday-Tuesday 2pm-6pm) and bank holidays. Closed on 25th December and 1st January.

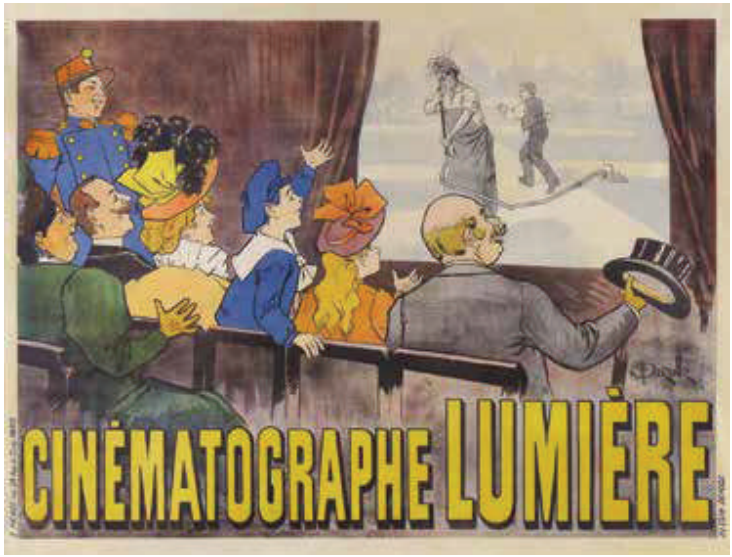
Tel. +33 (0)4 50 83 15 90 / www.palaislumiere.fr

Exhibition designed and produced by the Institut Lumière
Curated by: **Thierry Frémaux** and **Jacques Gerber** - Designed by: N.C agency
Palais Lumière artistic consultant: **William Saadé**, honorary head curator for heritage.

## Admission

- **Standard rate:** 10 €
- **Concessions:** 8 € (for details about discounts visit www.ville-evian.fr)
- **Free** for under 16s
- **50% off** admission (standard or discounted) on presentation of a City of Evian «household allowance» card;
- **30 % off** admission to exhibitions on presentation of a ticket for the Pierre Gianadda Foundation in Martigny.
- **Guided tours** for the general public every day at 2.30pm: 4 € extra charge.

**Tickets:**
- From the exhibition reception
- On: ville-evian.tickeasy.com
- From the FNAC network and on www.fnac.com
- From CGN outlets (boats and ticket offices)




**second poster for the Cinematograph by Auzolle, 1896. Pierre Aubert photo. institut Lumière Collection**

## COming s OOn

### At the Palais Lumière

• October 31st 2020 – January 24th 2021
**Alain le Foll, master of the imaginary,** sponsored by the BNF.

### At the Pierre Gianadda Foundation in Martigny

• December 6th 2019 – June 14th 2020
**Swiss masterpieces - Christoph Blocher collection.**

Auguste et Louis Lumiere à Lyon en 1895 © Collection Institut Lumière