



Hammurabi's Code, Louvre Museum, detail © 2002 Musée du Louvre / Raphaël Chipault

Natixis, exclusive sponsor of the *Babylon* exhibit in 2008

Natixis' cultural sponsorship

Natixis, a committed sponsor



Natixis' cultural patronage reflects one simple wish: To make works from French and international collections as widely accessible as possible.

Since 2004, Natixis has revealed many hidden cultural treasures to the public as part of its innovative cultural sponsorship policy titled "Yesterday's Heritage, Tomorrow's Treasures."

This policy includes all the arts (painting, sculpture, film, decorative arts, etc.) and was officially recognized in 2008 when Natixis was presented with the French Culture and Communication Ministry's *Leading Sponsor* medal.

Bringing history and legend together



Alexander Entering Babylon or The Triumph of Alexander, Louvre Museum © 1989 / Rmn Grand-Palais / Daniel Arnaudet / Gérard Blot



Bronze relief commemorating the restoration of Babylon by Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, Louvre Museum © 2005 RMN / Franck Raux

Convinced that knowledge of past civilizations helps us to understand those to come, Natixis sponsored the Louvre's exhibit devoted to the history and legends of Babylon in spring 2008.

Babylon arose between the Tigris and the Euphrates 5,000 years ago, and all our civilizations are heir to it.

This city's influence reached well beyond Mesopotamia. It symbolized the connection between Earth and Heaven with its legendary Tower of Babel, of which some significant vestiges were featured at the Louvre.

The *Babylon* exhibit allowed visitors to discover more than 400 works, some of which were presented for the first time outside their country of origin.

Pursuing the dissemination of culture

This is also the history of visionary kings, who encouraged research in such varied fields as architecture, astrology, medicine, politics and the arts, and worked to ensure the dissemination of knowledge, a value which Natixis also honors.

The legend of Babylon lives on still. The Louvre exhibit illustrated this connection of past and present thanks to the loan of numerous antiques and modern works from French and foreign cultural institutions, thus reinforcing the international dimension of the myth.

Although Babylon's original site is inaccessible, the exhibit shed new light on how it has been documented, giving the general public access to historical secrets from thousands of years in the past, which Natixis has now helped transmit to future generations.

Key figures:

- **400 artworks**
- **13 countries**



Head of a prince who probably reigned with Hammurabi of Babylon, Louvre Museum © 1992 Musée du Louvre / Oi-Cheong Lee