



Vincenzo Coronelli, Celestial globe, detail © Luc Castel / BnF

Natixis rediscovers the Coronelli globes

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.

The history of the celestial and terrestrial globes



Vincenzo Coronelli, Celestial globe, detail © David Paul Carr / BnF

A gift from the Cardinal d'Estrées to Louis XIV, the globes, created in 1683 by Venetian cosmographer Vincenzo Coronelli, constitute an overall representation of the Earth and the Heavens.

They were meant to present the scientific knowledge of the era, as well as to glorify the King and testify to his "terrestrial" mission and "celestial" origin.



Vincenzo Coronelli, Terrestrial globe, detail © David Paul Carr / BnF

The celestial globe offers a voyage through the Heavens with the constellations positioned as they were on the day of the King's birth.

The terrestrial globe presents a complete map of the world and the wealth available to the King at that time, in territories already conquered or as yet undiscovered.

The adventure of returning the globes to the public eye

In 2005, Natixis joined the National Library of France in the remarkable process of rediscovering Coronelli's monumental globes, which had been hidden away in basement storage for years.

Natixis financed the transport, research, restoration and staging of the terrestrial and celestial globes, which now take pride of place at the National Library's François Mitterrand site.



Vincenzo Coronelli, Celestial and terrestrial globes, detail © David Paul Carr / BnF

Key figures:

- **4 meters in diameter**
- **2.3 metric tons each**