



Children on horseback and soldiers, After Henri Lerambert, detail © Collections Mobilier national

## Natixis and the *Artemisia Tapestry*

Natixis' cultural sponsorship

# Natixis, a committed sponsor

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**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.**

# History of the *Artemisia Tapestry*

The tapestry was inspired by Artemisia II, a 6th century queen of Halicarnassus in Caria, on the south-west coast of Asia Minor, who had a splendid tomb built for her husband Mausolus. She then reigned as regent, as did Catherine de Medici for whom this tapestry was initially woven.

The project was abandoned for a time, but taken up again by Henri IV for Marie de Medici.

The work actually comprises fifteen tapestries woven with gold and silver thread. It was executed at the turn of the 17th century from the drawings of the two greatest French exponents of the time, Antoine Caron (1521-1599) and Henri Lerambert (1550-1609), in the two workshops of the Faubourg Saint-Marcel manufactory that became the Gobelins Manufactory.

Together with the *Coriolan Tapestry*, the *Artemisia Tapestry* is the only remaining tapestry set from the French ateliers of these period, and the sole vestige of Henri IV's furnishings.



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# Acquisition and donation of the missing tapestries

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Porters of vases and valuables on a stretcher, After Henri Lerambert © Collections Mobilier national

The fifteen pieces in this important tapestry set had been separated into two parcels between 1659 and 1666.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Natixis, this tapestry deemed of major heritage significance by the Commission of national treasures, was purchased and put on show in its entirety for the first time in 350 years.

For the reopening of the Galerie de Gobelins in May 2007, Natixis financed the French State's acquisition for the National Furnishings Collection of the eight missing pieces in the *Artemisia Tapestry*.

At the same time, Natixis helped finance the creation of an online database containing the catalogue of all the National Furnishings tapestries.