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Paris Moderne in Mississippi

By Danielle McClure

Forty paintings, 25 pieces of furniture, and 10 sculptures from the Musée d'Art Moderne of Paris will be on display at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson from March 6 through July 11. Not only does the exhibit highlight the talents of the 20th century's key French fine and decorative artists—Henri Matisse, Marcel Gromaire, Jean Dunand, and Maurice Daurat, to name a few—but it also illustrates the transition from the streamlined design associated with the Art Deco movement of the early 1920s to the elaborate craftsmanship and industrial experimentation of 1930s Moderne. The variety of media allows viewers to follow the movement of posh interior designs at the peak of Paris' art scene.

The elaborate curvature of the female form is coupled with vivid colors and rigid cube shapes in André Lhote's oil painting "The Studio" from the 1930s, whereas Amédéo Modigliani's 1918 "Femme aux yeux bleus" (Woman with Blue Eyes) illustrates a more minimal form.



"Landscape," by Léopold Survage ([click for larger version](#))

The indulgence of the era is probably best exhibited in the dramatic laquered gold on wood panel "Les Sports" by Jean Dunand. The 18-by-18-foot panel, which has 30 layers of lacquer, is one of five that were commissioned for the luxurious ocean liner *Normandie*. The panel was rescued after the *Normandie*, which was converted into a battleship during World War II, sank in the

New York harbor.

Paris Moderne is on display at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson from March 6 through July 11. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, and \$5 for students. For more information, call 601-960-1515 or visit www.msmuseumart.org. &

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