

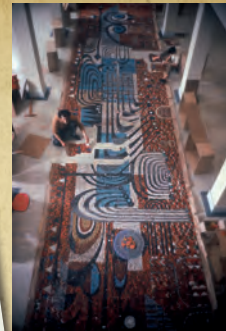
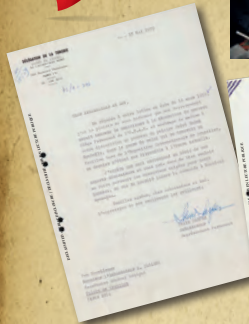
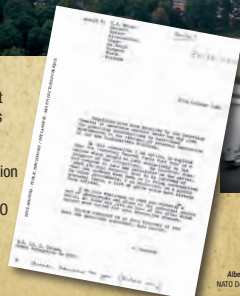
After seven years of provisional stay at the Palais de Chaillot, NATO moved into its first new headquarters at the end of 1959. Located at Porte Dauphine in Paris, le "Palais de l'OTAN" was designed by French architect Jacques Carlu as a marriage between art and architecture. It served as NATO headquarters from 1960 to 1967.

"Great spaces exist for the display of art, artifacts, historical documents, murals, models and other visual materials that would illustrate "the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law!"



As NATO prepares to move to its newest home, it is timely to revisit the Alliance's arts heritage.

The NATO Archives presents this exhibition highlighting some of the works of art given by NATO member countries to decorate the first new NATO headquarters.



The construction of the mosaic took place over a span of months in early 1960, and the final assembly took place in the corridor outside the office of the Secretary General. It was installed on a wall panel located on the 8th floor courtyard of the Palais de l'OTAN, which was surrounded by the restaurant and the cafeteria.

Bedri Rahmi Eyuboğlu (1911-1970) was a Turkish painter, writer, and poet renowned for his unique blending of modernist Western aesthetics with traditional Anatolian patterns in his works.



The mosaic was unveiled on 21 April 1960 by NATO Secretary General Paul-Henri Spaak in the presence of the North Atlantic Council and Bedri Rahmi Eyuboğlu.

At the Brussels International Expo in 1958, the mosaic mural that he created for the Turkish pavilion was awarded the Grand Prix in the Arts and Artistic Media group of the Expo.



Le Triomphe de la Paix (1963)
Sornville, Roger
Wall Tapestry
13.30 x 4.70 m



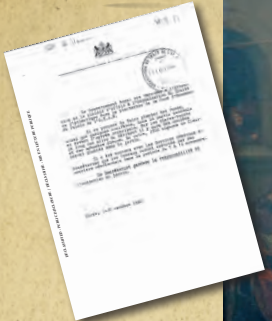
Roger Sornville (1923-2014) was a Belgian painter, theoretician and lecturer whose art coalesced with his strong activism for peace. From 1947 to 1986, he was the renowned Director of the Academy of Watercolor Studies. He is the author of numerous large-scale works aimed at the widest possible audience. One of his most notable murals, Notre temps, is found at the Hanxart metro station in Brussels, Belgium.



Notre Temps (1974/76)
Sornville, Roger
Mural painting
600 m2
metro station Hanxart, Brussels



Presentation of Le Triomphe de la Paix by André de Staerck, Belgian Ambassador in NATO, to NATO Secretary General Mante Brando and the North Atlantic Council on 2 June 1965. The enormous tapestry was prominently displayed in the main conference hall of the Palais de l'OTAN.



Dorpseksamen met kwakzalver (1873) [Village Fair with Quack]
Steen, Jan
Oil on Canvas Painting
73x109 cm

The Netherlands decorated the new Palais de l'OTAN with rose, azaleas, cyclamen and various shrubs planted in the Cour d'Honneur. Unfortunately, the weather in Paris was not friendly to urban plant life so a second, more permanent gift was offered.

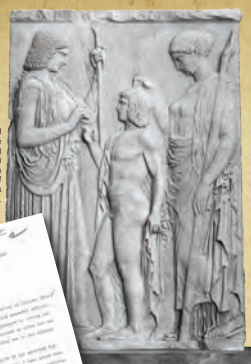
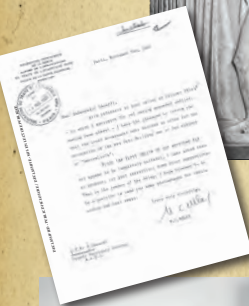
Presentation of Jan Steen tableau to NATO Secretary General Mante Brando by Dutch Ambassador Henry Broun and Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Luns, 3 May 1965. The tableau would be displayed in the office of the NATO Secretary General.



Jan Steen is the great comedian of 17th century Dutch painting. He created nearly eight hundred paintings in a variety of genre types featuring exuberant scenes of public upheaval set in dining rooms, taverns, intimate interiors and outdoor gatherings.



Self-Portrait (c. 1670)
Steen, Jan
Oil on Canvas Painting
73 x 62 cm

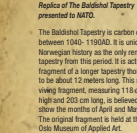


Marble votive relief found at Delos in 1858. The original is in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. The work dates from 440-430 B.C. and is one of the outstanding sculptures of Greek art.



Marble terracotta of Chaermodos and Lykaios, two young Athenian soldiers who died fighting during the Peloponnesian war. The original was found at Salamis in 1915 and resides in the Archaeological Museum at Piraeus. The work dates from the second half of the 5th century B.C.

NATO Secretary General Dirk Siksker offers his gratitude on behalf of the Alliance to Michael Mouts, Greek Ambassador to NATO, in the presence of the North Atlantic Council on 7 March 1962.



Replica of The Baldshol Tapestry presented to NATO.

The Baldshol Tapestry is a carpet dated between 1040-1150AD. It is unique in Norwegian history as the only remaining tapestry from this period. It is actually a fragment of a larger tapestry thought to be about 12 meters long. This surviving fragment, measuring 118 cm high and 303 cm long, is believed to show the months of April and May. The original fragment is held at the Oslo Museum of Applied Art.

During an official visit to Oslo on 11 September 1962, NATO Secretary General Dirk Siksker visited the Viking Ship Museum in Bygdøy where he was able to witness the grandeur of the Oseberg ship with his own eyes.



Model of the Oseberg Viking ship found in Husefjord, Norway, in 1904. The Oseberg ship, which dates from the 9th century, is the centerpiece of the Viking Ship Museum at Bygdøy in Oslo, Norway. It is made of oak, and measures 21.58 m long and 5.10 m broad, with a mast of approximately 9-10 m. There are 15 oar holes on each side. Animal ornamentation has been carved from the keel, down below the waterline and up along the bow post, ending in a snake's head of holding spiral.

The model of the Oseberg Viking ship and the replica of the Baldshol tapestry were displayed in the main hall of the second floor at the Palais de l'OTAN.

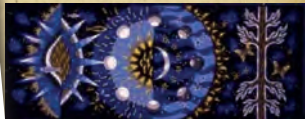




Le Ciel et la terre
Picart Le Douar, Jean
Hand-woven tapestry
170 cm x 162 cm (approx.)



In 1958, France offered to furnish and decorate the new office of the Secretary General at the Palais de l'OTAN with two unique artworks: the tapestry "Le Ciel et la terre" by Jean Picart Le Douar, and a custom-made desk and cabinet set by André Arbus.

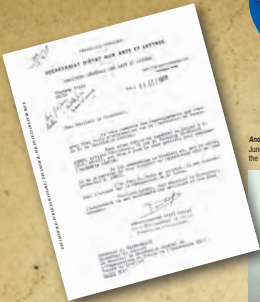


Les phases du temps
Picart Le Douar, Jean
Hand-woven tapestry
4 m x 17,50 m



His currency in modern French design was augmented by the selection of his work to decorate the S.S. France, the largest French transatlantic cruise ship that launched in 1962. His most notable contribution was the immense wall tapestry "Les phases du temps" which adorned the bar in the 1st class smoking room.

Jean Picart Le Douar (1902-1982) was a well-known leading figure in the renaissance of the art of contemporary tapestry. He produced over 400 original works that are instantly recognizable by his decorative, symbolic and thematic use of images inspired by celestial bodies, nature and the elements. He used color as a means to highlight the oppositions in his allegorical representations: day and night, day and night, light and shadow.



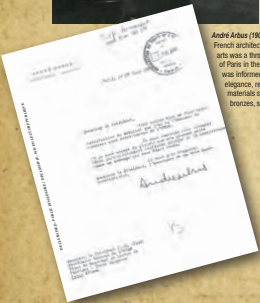
André Arbus' custom-designed desk and cabinet set was delivered to the Palais de l'OTAN on 10 June 1960. Originally made to the specifications of NATO Secretary General Paul-Henri Spaak, the desk and furniture remained a feature of the Office of the Secretary General for over 25 years.



Arbus was entrusted with numerous significant assignments from the French government as they purchased many pieces from him and commissioned several interiors for their international offices. In 1965 he decorated the rooms of the French embassy in Washington, and Charles De Gaulle even gifted some of his works to heads of foreign states.



André Arbus (1903 - 1969) was an internationally celebrated French architect and designer whose work in the decorative arts was a throwback to the tradition and craftsmanship of Paris in the 1930s and 40s. His neo-classical style was informed by mingling precise lines with graceful elegance, reconstructing rational structures with luxurious materials such as precious woods adorned with bronzes, lacquer, or ivory inlays.



The desk and furniture served seven successive NATO Secretaries General before being donated to the NATO Archives for its inauguration in 1988. The complete furniture set is currently on display in the NATO Archives Reading Room.



Dick Schiller (NL), 1991-1994



Marino Bresio (IT), 1984-1971



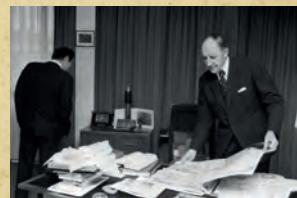
Marino Bresio (IT), 1984-1971



Lord Carrington (UK), 1984-1988



Joseph Luns (NL), 1971-1984



Joseph Luns (NL), 1971-1984



Manfred Wörner (GER), 1984-1988



Willy Claes (BEL), 1984-1985