



AUSTRALIA

Westwood | Kawakubo  
National Gallery of  
Victoria, Melbourne

UNTIL 19 APRIL 2026

Bringing together two of the most influential and rebellious fashion designers of the late 20th century, this exhibition examines the life and work of Vivienne Westwood and Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons. From different cultural contexts – Westwood’s in London and Kawakubo’s in Tokyo – both anchor their work in a desire to upend the status quo, pushing for personal autonomy and social change. The 140-piece exhibition includes early punk ensembles and Met Gala outfits, alongside archival film and photography.

STAY 19th-century landmark building Treasury on Collins, from £113 per night. EAT Gimlet for a glamorous, 1920s-inspired fine-dining experience.



THE NETHERLANDS

Yayoi Kusama  
The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

11 SEPTEMBER 2026 – 17 JANUARY 2027

This landmark retrospective traces 70 years of Kusama’s work, from early pieces in Japan in the 1950s to later avant-garde creations in New York. Highlights include her famous immersive Infinity Mirror Rooms, large-scale polka-dot environments,

and newly-commissioned installations exploring themes such as repetition and self-obliteration. The exhibition spans painting, sculpture, performance, fashion and more, charting Kusama’s transformative impact on the world of contemporary art.

STAY Well located townhouse hotel Jan Luyken Amsterdam, from £225 per night. EAT Cafe Binnenvisser for natural wines and seasonal dishes.

Matisse’s Femme au chapeau:  
A Modern Scandal  
The San Francisco Museum  
of Modern Art

16 MAY – 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Shocking Parisian audiences at the 1905 Salon d’Automne with its vivid colors and loose brushwork, Matisse’s portrait of his wife and professional hat-maker Amélie, is the focus of SFMOMA’s summer show. The work ignited Fauvism, an early 20th-century French art movement of bright colour and bold brushstrokes. At the heart of the show is a recreation of Gallery VII, where Matisse’s work first debuted, featuring works by all 10 of the artists at the original gallery, including Derain and Vlaminck.

STAY Eclectic, rock-and-roll-inspired Hotel Zeppelin, from £150 per night. EAT Lunette for flavourful Cambodian food in the striking Ferry Building.



UNITED STATES

IMAGE: HENRI MATISSE, FEMME AU CHAPEAU (WOMAN WITH A HAT), PHOTO: BEN BLACKWELL; COURTESY OF SFMOMA

IMAGES (BOTTOM LEFT): PORTRAIT OF KATIE SOMERVILLE, SENIOR CURATOR, WITH A VIVIENNE WESTWOOD ENSEMBLE; (TOP LEFT) VISITORS AT THE MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT OF WESTWOOD | KAWAKUBO AT NGV INTERNATIONAL. PHOTOS: EUGENE HYLAND.

IMAGE (LEFT): HENRI YAYOI KUSAMA WITH 'YELLOW TREE / LIVING ROOM' AT THE AICHI TRIENNALE, 2010. © YAYOI KUSAMA. COURTESY OF OTA FINE ARTS, VICTORIA MIRO, LOW ID, ZWIRNER

IMAGES (TOP MIDDLE): RAYMOND TEMPLIER (1891-1968), DESIGNER, JEAN TROTTAIN, MANUFACTURER, CIGARETTE CASE PARIS, 1928. SILVER, LACQUER, ENAMEL © LES ARTS DÉCORATIFS



FRANCE

ELSEWHERE / SEE

OF TRAVEL

ISABELLE CLARK HIGHLIGHTS SOME OF THE EXHIBITIONS WORTH TRAVELLING TO IN 2026

1925–2025: A Century of Art Deco  
Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

UNTIL 26 APRIL 2026

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs’ landmark art deco exhibition charts a hundred years of the movement’s influence on design, from its origins in Paris to its modern-day revivals. Among its highlights is a preview of the reborn Orient Express. Original 1920s carriages, rediscovered in 2015 after decades hidden away, are now being restored and reimagined by architect Maxime d’Angeac ahead of the train’s 2027 return.

STAY Belle-époque-themed boutique hotel Maison Proust, from £885 per night. EAT Cepe et Figue for traditional French cuisine.



JAPAN

IMAGE (MIDDLE RIGHT): CLAUDE MONET, THE MAGPIE, 1868-69, OIL ON CANVAS, MUSÉE D’ORSAY PHOTO © GRANDPALAISGRAND (MUSÉE D’ORSAY) / ADRIEN DIDIERJEAN / DISTRIBUTED BY ANF

Monet: Questioning Nature  
Artizon Museum, Tokyo

7 FEBRUARY – 24 MAY 2026

Commemorating 100 years since Monet’s death, this exhibition follows the artist’s career across Le Havre, Argenteuil, Vétheuil and Giverny, and his study of natural light and landscape. Bringing together 140 works, with 90 paintings from the Musée d’Orsay

at its core, alongside photographs, ukiyo-e prints and Art Nouveau objects by other artists, together, these works highlight Monet’s development, influences and innovations that established him as a pioneer of modern landscape painting.

STAY Japanese-owned boutique hotel K5 Tokyo, from £290 per night. EAT Shirotsuka for a memorable kappo-ryori dining experience.



IMAGE: CARL JOHAN UTSI

FINLAND

Eanangiella  
– Voice of the Land  
Oulu Art Museum, Oulu

16 JANUARY – 3 MAY 2026

As European Capital of Culture 2026, Oulu in Finland has planned a year of events showcasing this unique corner of Europe, including this exhibition exploring Sámi culture. Work from more than 70 artists from Sápmi (a term referring to the land and people of Sámi culture; Finland’s and Europe’s only recognised indigenous people) will be on show, including contemporary multimedia art, historical pieces, duodji (Sámi crafts) and soundscapes. Its themes focus on ancestors, memory, land, green colonialism, spirituality, and the ornaments of life.

STAY Modern, city-centre retreat Sokos Hotel Arina, from £163 per night. EAT Alfred Kitchen & Bar for warming, travel-inspired dishes.



IMAGE: PETER LAGEROVIST KUULOJOKI