

musée soulages  
RODEZ

# Opening of the Soulages Museum in Rodez

Press release - February 2014

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

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Soulages Museum 2013 © Photothèque Grand Rodez © C. Meravilles



“This is where my taste was shaped” - Pierre Soulages

The new Soulages Museum will open on 30 May 2014 in Rodez, the home town of the artist Pierre Soulages. The museum will house the extraordinary donations made by Pierre and Colette Soulages to the Greater Rodez Urban Community.

This gift of more than 500 works and documents is the most significant collection ever donated by an artist during his lifetime.

From 2001, Pierre Soulages was certain that the core of the future museum would be all his works on the stained glass windows he created for the abbey of Conques, both in the concept of the museum and the choice of its architecture. The collection includes his preparatory works for the windows, figurative paintings and walnut-stain works from his youth, as well as his complete printed works.

The museum intends to become a reference point for international modern and contemporary art. To mark the opening, it will stage an exhibition, ‘Pierre Soulages: The *Outrenoir(s)* [Ultra-Blacks] in European collections’.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Construction project: Greater Rodez Urban Community

Architects: RCR Architectes (Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem, Ramon Vilata) / Passelac et Roques Associated Architects

Designer: Philippe Maffre

Chief Curator: Benoît Decron, director of the Greater Rodez museums

Construction: From June 2011 to the beginning of 2014

Cost: 21,460,000 euro net of tax

## GREATER RODEZ In figures

11 local authorities (Rodez, Onet-le-Château, Luc-la-Primaube, Le Monastère, Druelle, Sébazac-Concourès, Olemps, Sainte-Radegonde, Baraqueville, Manhac, Camboulazet)

58,755 inhabitants

5 air links: Ajaccio, Charleroi, Dublin, London, Paris, Lyons

3 museums:

- Soulages Museum
- Fenaille Museum (history and archeology)
- Denys-Puech Museum (fine art)

[musees.grand-rodez.com](http://musees.grand-rodez.com)

## OPENING EXHIBITION

'PIERRE SOULAGES: THE *OUTRENOIR(S)* [ULTRA-BLACKS] IN EUROPEAN COLLECTIONS'  
30 MAY-5 OCTOBER 2014

This retrospective will be the first European exhibition on Soulages' *Outrenoir* paintings

The exhibition will bring together some 30 large-scale *Outrenoirs*, loaned by major museums and foundations in Europe. Pierre Soulages has personally supervised the selection so that it makes up a representative range that will complement the museum's permanent collection, which highlights the first three decades of his work.



Pierre Soulages in his workshop in 1968 © Fritz Pitz

Curators: Benoît Decron, head of heritage conservation, and Pierre Encrevé, Pierre Soulages' biographer

This exhibition has been labelled an 'exhibition of national interest' by the Ministry of Culture and Communication.

[musee-soulages.grand-rodez.com](http://musee-soulages.grand-rodez.com)

### How to get there:

Rodez, in the Aveyron Department in the Midi-Pyrenees, is situated in the middle of the triangle between Clermond-Ferrand, Toulouse and Montpellier.

**By car:** A The A75 then the RN88

### By train:

Paris-Rodez or Paris-Toulouse

### By plane:

Rodez-Aveyron airport, 20 minutes from the Soulages Museum.

Flight links: Ajaccio, Brussels/Charleroi, Dublin, London, Paris and Lyons

### Tourist office:

+33 (0)5 65 75 76 77

<http://www.tourisme.myrodez.fr>

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