



Art and architecture

Open museum

Tim Benton

The first real Director of the Musée Central at the Louvre was the engraver and art collector Vivon Denon. The present Director of the Louvre Pierre Rosenberg considers Denon's contribution to have been essential.

Pierre Rosenberg, Director of The Louvre

What was his great idea in a certain way, very simple idea. First to open the museum to everyone. And to make it sort of democratic institution. There were examples before, but the idea was not works of art hanging together, chosen by the taste of the ruler, of the Prince, but trying to explain true work of art the history of art. That means the schools, the division in Northern school, Italian school, French school. the chronology from Giotto, you go to Masaccio and from Masaccio to Leonardo De Vinci. And from there to Caravaggio and so on and so on. I mean, this idea of an evolution of art history.