

Press release

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***Relics of the Future*: ECAL makes Chillon its modern, creative playground**

From 17 September 2026 to 25 April 2027, Chillon Castle will be presenting *Relics of the Future – ECAL x Chillon*, a temporary exhibition created in partnership with ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne. Projects by Graphic Design, Photography, Media & Interaction Design Bachelor's students and Type Design Master's students transform the historic monument into living material for a new generation.

When we think of a relic, our minds often go straight to an old object, preserved for its historic value. *Relics of the Future* flips this on its head: what if today's creations were to leave precious lasting traces of our era for tomorrow? Designed as modern artworks telling the story of our current view of the castle, the pieces on display question how heritage is passed down, transformed and continues to inspire.

The exhibition is part of Chillon's very history, a monument bearing the marks of those who have inhabited it, as it has transformed and adapted over time.

Marta Sofia dos Santos, Director of the Chillon Castle Foundation highlights how, "Far from fixed, here the castle appears as a piece of our heritage in constant motion, able to build a dialogue with modern shapes, images, languages and imaginations."

Chillon Castle invited ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne and its students to provide a modern perspective of the site. They used its rooms, objects, texts, materials and atmosphere to create visual proposals blending past, present and the imaginary. Visitors will find a selection of the projects created especially by ECAL on display throughout the castle.

Noémie Enz, Exhibition Curator, explains, "Through this collaboration, we were able to hold the viewpoint of a new generation of creatives up against over eight centuries of history. By working as closely as possible to the site itself, the students were able to get to grips with the castle as a creative material and, through their work, reveal some of the details and stories that we can tend to overlook."

Differing perspectives on heritage

"By inviting the students to work in a place steeped in so much history, we gave them an opportunity to look more critically at the concept of cultural transmission. Their projects demonstrate how creativity in multiple forms can give rise to new interpretations of Chillon and help reimagine our relationship with heritage," adds Alexis Georgacopoulos, Director of ECAL.

From pictorial motifs to moving images, by way of stone script and photographic narration, the projects on display offer many different ways of interpreting Chillon's heritage:

- "Mirrored Motifs" by the Bachelor of Graphic Design students
Shapes, motifs, painted decor, coats of arms and traces of the castle serve as the starting point for printed, fragmented and reconstructed compositions.
- "Castle Life" by the Bachelor of Photography students
Chillon's spaces are transformed into narrative scenes where characters, accessories and imaginary situations offer a personal perspective on the site.
- "Parallel Chronicles" by the Bachelor of Media & Interaction Design students
Animations create a visual universe where the past, future, and the imagination coalesce.
- "Scripta Manent" by the Master of Type Design students
Students carve inscriptions into the stone, each letter an imprint – from ancient references to modern typography.

Born from the dialogue between a major heritage institution and an internationally renowned art and design school, *Relics of the Future* offers an experience at the intersection between history, modern art and design. Here, heritage is not simply something to be preserved – it is alive, open to the perspectives, actions and creations of each passing era.

Visitors can discover the *Relics of the Future – ECAL x Chillon* exhibition from 17 September 2026 to 25 April 2027 at Chillon Castle in Veytaux.



About the organisations

Chillon Castle belongs to the State of Vaud and is one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Europe. In 2025 it welcomed around 422,000 visitors, 23% of which came from Switzerland.

ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne forms part of a long tradition of artistic teaching and, today, is one of the most renowned art and design schools in the world.

Media contacts and resources

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Photos and videos are available to the press upon request via [chillon.ch](https://www.chillon.ch) and [ecal.ch](https://www.ecal.ch) (press area)

