

Press release



Paris, September 30th, 2014 - From September 30th 2014 to January 4th 2015, the *Musée des arts et métiers* will host the photo exhibition "*Mesures et démesures. Les très grandes souffleries aéronautiques de l'ONERA*"¹.

At Modane-Avrieux in Savoy, a French aeronautics and space research and technology center where ONERA's very large wind tunnels are located, aircraft manufacturers from around the world come to test the aerodynamic performance of their future aircraft. The tests performed there allow the uncertainty before the first flight to be reduced, thereby minimizing technical and industrial risks, which is a fundamental aspect for manufacturers in an increasingly competitive context.

The exhibition is intended for those members of the public who are aviation and technology enthusiasts, as well as for photography, architecture and industrial heritage enthusiasts. It invites visitors to discover this site, which is quite exceptional both because of its size and history and because of the tests and research that are conducted there, through large format photographs in black and white. **Antoine Gonin**, a photographer with a passion for large industrial infrastructure, managed to capture the magic of these wind tunnels that are unique in the world and are located in the Maurienne valley.

About ONERA (www.onera.fr) :

A public institution created in 1946 under the Ministry of Defense, ONERA is the French center for research and technology in aeronautics and space. Its mission is to anticipate technological breakthroughs, prepare for the future, promote technology transfer to industry, build and implement means of experimentation and simulation, provide industry with high-level expert assessments, evaluate major technological options for the future on behalf of the government and train researchers. In order to do so, for over 60 years ONERA has operated a fleet of aeronautical wind tunnels that are unique in the world. Covering a speed range from Mach 0.1 to Mach 12, ONERA's wind tunnel fleet, which is distributed mainly between two centers in Savoy and in the Toulouse region, constitutes more than half of the major European wind tunnels. A key tool for understanding phenomena, testing hypotheses and characterizing the performance of imagined designs, the ONERA wind tunnels like those of Modane, which are illustrated in this exhibition, are commonly used by large French, European and world manufacturers in the aerospace field.

About the Musée des arts et métiers (<http://www.arts-et-metiers.net>) :

The Museum of the *Conservatoire national des arts et métiers* is aimed at maintaining and enhancing national heritage by illustrating the progress of science and technology and at contributing to the development of

¹ "**Measurement and Extravagance. ONERA's Very Large Aeronautical Wind Tunnels**"

historical research and cultural, scientific and technical training. To this end, it organizes temporary exhibitions, as well as educational and cultural events, and edits various publications.

The Cnam, a large public scientific, cultural and professional establishment, has been dedicated to training ever since it was founded in 1794 by Henri Grégoire. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, it has three main missions: adult vocational training, technological research and innovation, and the dissemination of scientific and technical culture (<http://www.cnam.fr>).

Download images of the exhibition from: <http://www.onera.fr/fr/espace-presse/telechargement>

Press Contacts

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Useful information

How to get to the museum

By subway: *Arts et Métiers* (Lines 3 and 11)
or Reaumur Sebastopol (Line 4)
By bus: 20, 38, 39 and 47
Vélib' station: 55 rue de Turbigo

Opening hours

The museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00AM to 6:00PM, remaining open until 9:30 PM on Thursdays.
It is closed on Mondays, on May 1st and on December 25th.

Admission fee

Full price: 6.50 € (fee for access to the permanent collection)
Reduced price: 3.50 €