

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTIONS

From 14 June 2022 to 5 March 2023

At the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie

The "Industrial Revolution" – generally accepted as a historical truth, has become part of our everyday language and refers to the idea that there was an abrupt change in production methods. It has played a key role in constructing a collective narrative that begins with the "invention" of the steam engine by James Watt in Great Britain in 1769. When we take a closer look, we can see that industrialisation is a slow phenomenon that began well before the 18th century and is not tied to any particular region. It has very little to do with a revolution... rather it's all about "industrial evolution". This is what the exhibition at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie aims to show, focusing as much on permanence as on change.

For centuries, industry has been transforming raw materials on a large scale through work and energy, and organising the mass production of objects, networks, systems and services. We are intimately connected to the products of industry: they surround us, extend us, contain us, and we even ingest them. Nothing escapes them, since industry shapes human labour, but also landscapes, cities and our societies. A world in itself.

The exhibition explores this with an original reflection on the process of industrialisation, viewed through the lens of our relationship with technical objects, work and discourse. The time has come to deconstruct a myth.

Bruno Maquart, Chairman and CEO of Universcience

From 14 June, the Cité presents *Industrial Evolutions*, a temporary exhibition that explores the "new industrial world" and its impact on mankind.

Industrial Evolutions reflects on the process of industrialisation and gives us the keys to understanding this complex and vast subject, spanning the past, present and future and touching on all areas of human activity, which are now more interdependent than ever. The artistic and educational installations give visitors a contemplative experience that allows them to understand the changes of today by comparing them with those of yesterday. They are then invited to question the duality of an industry that helps people live better but at the same time causes concern.

A GLOBAL, TRANSHISTORICAL APPROACH THROUGH 7 HIGHLIGHTS

■ From fog to cloud

Images projected on large screens set the scene and situate us in time. From London's historic pea-soupers – a mixture of fog and coal smoke – to a digital cloud represented against a blue sky, the contrast is striking. Transformed landscapes, standardisation and accumulation, industrial locations, images of workers and networks show us the complexity of today's industrial world and the lack of clarity that surrounds situations of great change.

■ Transformations

Two installations then reveal the increase in production and consumption and the changing face of industry. An augmented apartment demonstrates the enormous scale of the production lines and the complexity of the industrial sectors behind everyday objects. Further on, a lenticular installation shows the transformations over a century of a major site in French industrial history, PSA-Sochaux.

■ The age of objects

The steam engine, the washing machine, the smartphone, the tin can, the drone, the contraceptive pill and the T-shirt are reminders that the production of objects is one of the purposes and reasons for existence of industry. We transform the world by making objects, which in turn transform us.

■ Homo Faber

From the mine to the factory to the digital platform, this space underlines the fact that employment and industrial activity are intrinsically linked. It reveals the transformations in the organisation of work and the metamorphosis of industry, while showing the coexistence and proliferation of production methods.



**Trilingual exhibition
(French, English, Spanish)
From 14 years old**

Industrial Evolutions is part of the "**Societyscience / The way our world is changing**" editorial line. This thematic line features exhibitions dealing with changes in science and technology and their impact on our individual and collective lives. They therefore offer a valuable insight into social sciences and other major issues affecting society.

**In partnership with
École des hautes études en
sciences sociales (EHESS)
and with the support of
the Union des Industries et
Métiers de la Métallurgie (UIMM).**



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■ Grand narratives

What if Karl Marx talked to Steve Jobs? And Elon Musk to René Descartes? A film stages a debate between historical figures whose ideas and speeches have marked the history of industrial activity. These narratives correspond to two different visions, depending on the teller: technology and industrialisation are either perceived as threats to mankind and sources of enslavement or, in contrast, as solutions to all our ills and a means of emancipation.

■ The rebound effect (or Jevons paradox)

Visitors then discover a large suspended sphere illustrating the rebound effect (or Jevons paradox). This installation shows how technological improvements, which increase the efficiency with which a resource is used, lower its cost and consequently lead to an increase in the total consumption of that resource. Instead of consumption decreasing, it never stops increasing.

■ Augmented Earth / Diminished Earth

The exhibition ends with a curtain-raise on the new hyper-industrialised world. This highlight presents the gigantic, invisible infrastructures of digital technology: satellites, undersea cables and data centres. A spectacular 270° video projection reveals these fascinating infrastructures, with their high environmental cost, and unveils a new world state: the hyper-industrialisation of the planet.



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ACCOMPANYING THE EXHIBITION

■ Book GRAPHIC NOVEL *Les héros de l'étoffe: la fabuleuse histoire du textile* [Heroes of the cloth: the fabulous history of textiles]

Written by Séverine Laliberté and Audrey Millet, illustrated by Nicola Gobbi.



Imagine a textile trade fair that crosses space and time: Karl Lagerfeld, Michael Jordan, Colbert, Otzi, an influencer, Adam Smith, an Indian textile worker, King Arthur... Guided by Pétronille, an archaeologist, and Audrey, a fashion historian, the reader is plunged into a story that is also the history of humanity, from the Palaeolithic to fast fashion. The industrialisation of the world was a long-term process, shaped by inequalities, access to natural resources, social and political struggles. Textiles, more than any other sector, is representative of this. This book gives the anonymous the place they deserve in its history and puts its evolution into perspective.

New joint publication Steinkis / Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie. Available from bookshops from 9 June 2022. Format 190 x 250 mm / 144 pages / €19.

■ Industrial Evolutions exhibition journal

Author of texts and interviews: Olivier Quezada, editor.

Contributions from Liliâne Hilaire-Pérez, professor of modern history at the Université Paris Cité and director of studies at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Thierry Weil, doctor of physics, professor at Mines Paris, Astrid Fontaine, exhibition curator and museographer.

Designed as a souvenir of the exhibition, this journal deconstructs the notion of the "industrial revolution" that appeared with James Watt's steam engine, in favour of a series of progressive evolutions. Three scientific experts question the collective narrative of the "Industrial Revolution" in a concise way by focusing on a series of emblematic characters and places.

Available from 10 June 2022. On sale only at the exhibition and on cite-sciences.fr Format 21.5 X 42 cm / 24 pages / €5.95.

■ Online game: *Le Paradoxe*

"Le Paradoxe" (The Paradox) is an interactive digital game that gives you a better understanding of the rebound effect, also called the Jevons paradox. The player is the new mayor of a small village where a threatening cloud is growing in the sky. This cloud, which the worried inhabitants call the Paradox, puts the holding of their beloved Chestnut Festival at risk!

From age 15. Purchase from the Cité's online ticket office from 30 June 2022. More information to come.

Note

Event week
"Industry tomorrow"
from 15 to 20 November 2022.
More information to come.

Practical information

Cité des sciences et de l'industrie

30 avenue Corentin-Cariou
75019 Paris
📍 Porte de la Villette 📞 03 38

Opening hours

Every day except Monday
from 10 am to 6 pm,
and until 7.00 pm on Sundays.
+33 (0)1 40 05 80 00

www.cite-sciences.fr
#ExpoEvolutionsIndustrielles

Prices

→ €12, €9 (reduced rate for under 25s, students, over 65s, teachers, large families)

→ Free for under 2s, job seekers and people on a low income, disabled persons and their carers.

The ticket gives access to the exhibitions on levels 1 and 2, the Argonaute submarine and the planetarium.



Press contacts

Laure-Anne Le Coat

+33 (0)1 40 05 75 04 / +33 (0)6 17 44 56 24
laure-anne.lecoat@universcience.fr

Aurore Wils

+33 (0)1 40 05 70 15 / +33 (0)6 46 66 18 97
aurore.wils@universcience.fr