

Nine Of Europe's Best Art Galleries That You Won't Find On The Tourist Trail

Together with Contiki, we're exploring some of the more underground parts of Europe you might not find in a guidebook.

Any trip to Europe is fraught with things you have to do. Anyone who's been before you, after you or beside you, will reel off an identical list of absolute-musts that continues long after you've stopped listening.

Art galleries are no exception, especially during winter when they offer a retreat from Europe's unreasonably cold weather. For every National Gallery or Uffizi, there are a stack of relatively unknown galleries bursting with culcha that are all too easy to miss if you don't know where to look.

If you're trying to find them, there's no better way than by enlisting someone who knows what they're talking about. London-based Aussie creative director, artist and album-cover wunderkind Leif Podhajsky, who's been responsible for the cover art of albums by Tame Impala, Kelis, Bonobo and Foals, gave us his personal pick of the other best galleries in Europe – ones that aren't the Tate or the pointy French one where that smug looking Mona lady lives.

Paris

Musée du Quai Branly



Address: 37 quai Branly, 75007 Paris Tribal, La Villette

Opening hours: Closed Monday

Price: €9

Due to a deep personal interest in ancient masks, the *Musée du quai Branly* is my favourite gallery to hang out in awe of indigenous mask art from Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas.

Its spacious, dimly lit rooms add to the sense of arcane knowledge and wisdom of the ancient world. It's a perfect contrast to the modern art of De Tokyo and LVF, striking a balance between the old and new worlds.

The museum collection has around three and a half thousand objects on display at any given time, so give yourself a good chunk of the day to get through it. One side of the building has been claimed by a giant apocalyptic 'living wall' of plants by the artist Patrick Blanc, which trails impressively into the surrounding gardens.



I came to see – Yoyorba masks.

Afterwards – [Les Fabricants](#) does great traditional French food. Go for the Escargots sauce persillade (snails in parsley sauce). If you're after something a bit more low-key, [La Candelaria Paris](#) is the place for cheap hole-in-the wall Mexican food.

By [Leif Podhajsky](#),