

A Restauration Aubusson Carpet in the Savonnerie manner "*point noué*".
France, circa 1820.

A wool velvet carpet with a tobacco-coloured ground known as "*pain brûlé*" (literally burnt bread) sprinkled with yellow flowers. In the centre there is a round medallion with a bouquet of flowers encircled by three borders: the first with a pearl grey background decorated with white flowers, the second consisting of a rich flower garland with ribbons, and the last a thinner garland of white flowers. The last of these is found on the entire perimeter of the carpet, interrupted in the corners by a motif formed by a bouquet of flowers between two cornucopias, and in the centre of each line, where there is an oval crown of laurels enclosing a bouquet of flowers in its centre. The whole composition is framed by a wide border with a yellow background decorated with a garland in flowery rose stem.



Dimensions: 228.3 x 189 in (580 x 480 cm)

Conditions: The piece is in very good conditions with some small maintenance restorations. Just two areas of about 30 x 40 cm have been rewoven in the field, visible only on the back.

The Manufacture Royale d'Aubusson was created in 1665 on Colbert's initiative. With his ordinance, the minister allowed the workshops scattered in the city to produce tapestries and carpets of high quality to cater to the demands of both the aristocracy and high bourgeoisie of the whole of France, as well as to project a dignified image of the French crown abroad.

The presence of scattered workshops in the capital dated back to the Middle Ages, but it was at the end of the 16th century that they experienced a real boom. The eighteenth century is the golden age of the Aubusson manufactory, and it was in that period that the «Aubusson myth» will be formed. The French Revolution prompted a reorganisation of the training structures in the workshops and an updating of the decorative motifs of such artefacts, but not the dismissal of the manufactory altogether. Napoleon commissioned carpets from 1805 onwards.

In September 2009, the know-how and techniques of the Aubusson tapestry were inscribed on the list of "intangible cultural heritage of humanity" by UNESCO.