

[Hector Guimard](#)

French, 1867 - 1942

An Entrance to the Paris

Métropolitain

model 1902, fabricated 1902/1913

painted cast iron and bronze

overall: 421 x 370 x 584 cm (165 3/4 x 145 11/16 x 229 15/16 in.)

gross weight (estimated): 2180.500 kg

gross weight (each upright element): 1200 lb. (544.316 kg)

[Gift of Robert P. and Arlene R. Kogod](#)

2000.21

[On View: Sculpture Garden](#)

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SECTION MENU



OVERVIEW

Architect Hector Guimard was the principal designer of the Paris Métro system, which opened in 1900 at the time of the Exposition Universelle. His work is associated with art nouveau, a style of art and architecture that is based largely on organic forms from nature. Guimard's designs were meant to clearly mark the new subway entrances and make the novel form of mass transportation more attractive to riders. The three entrance styles he designed were industrially produced in cast iron until 1913. The entrances became so iconic that Parisian art nouveau came to be known as *le style Métro* and *le style Guimard*. This version, with its graceful upward reaching tendrils and vines, can still be seen at 86 station entrances in Paris today. Between the 1930s and 1960s, the Métro removed a number of Guimard entrances in poor condition and sold some to collectors and museums who restored and displayed them. In 1978 the remaining intact Guimard entrances were registered in Paris as Monuments Historiques.



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