



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

Versailles, 19th July 2016

PRESS RELEASE

VERSAILLES IN CANBERRA

VERSAILLES: TREASURES FROM THE PALACE

9 DECEMBER 2016 - 17 APRIL 2017

CANBERRA, NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA



Louis XIV, Jean Varin
© RMN-Grand Palais (Château de Versailles) / F. Raux.

PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES, FURNISHINGS, OBJETS D'ART... an exhibition that shows Versailles in all its riches and diversity. Its riches are its works of art by the finest artists, crafted in the most precious materials, such as the bust of Louis XIV which initially stood in the Ambassadors' Staircase, the monumental Les Gobelins tapestries, the Dauphin's Desk, the original sculpture of Leto's Fountain, or the porcelain of Marie-Antoinette. These works of the very highest artistic quality came from the studios of the finest creators of the 17th and 18th centuries, who made Versailles what it is and carried its renown far and wide.

ITS DIVERSITY RESIDES IN ITS DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERES. The Estate of Versailles is a world unto itself with its three palaces, two gardens and grounds. From the sheer majesty of the King's State Apartment to the country charm of Marie-Antoinette's Trianon, from far-ranging vistas to the intimacy of the groves, the former royal residence has great beauty to offer, and many surprises and contrasts derived from its history and the people who have shaped it. The exhibition has been designed as a tour leading the visitor all the way through to the times of the French Revolution.

THIS ENCOUNTER WITH VERSAILLES will also provide an opportunity to appreciate the excellence of French arts and crafts, in past and present alike. Far from being an immobile, if incomparable testimony to the past, Versailles continues to be kept alive by the know-how and talents of the artists and craftspeople who work on its preservation and to whom this exhibition pays due tribute.

PRESS CONTACTS

Hélène Dalifard,
Aurélie Gevrey, Elsa Martin
Violaine Solari
+33 (0)1 30 83 75 21
presse@chateauversailles.fr

CURATORS

Béatrix Saule
Director and General Curator of the National Museum of the Versailles and Trianon Palaces

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