

## Versailles: Splendour and Magnificence

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<b>Dates</b>	Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 December 2023
<b>Times</b>	18.00-20.00 GMT
<b>Location</b>	Online (Zoom Webinar)
<b>Tutor</b>	Dr Barbara Lasic
<b>Level</b>	All Levels



Louis XV's Commode by Antoine-Robert Gaudreaux, 1739, during its temporary loan to Versailles in 2023  
Photography by Thomas Garnier © Château de Versailles and The Wallace Collection

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### Course Description

Some of the finest objects in the Wallace Collection were originally made for the Palace of Versailles. This year, as we celebrate the 400th birthday of Europe's most iconic royal palace, uncover its fascinating and complex history. We'll learn about the chateau's architectural and stylistic development, and how it was luxuriously furnished with precious products from the royal manufactures.

Taking a tantalising glimpse into the magnificent state receptions, organised to welcome and awe foreign ambassadors, we'll also consider Versailles' political role as the architectural embodiment of royal power. You'll gain fascinating insights into how the palace operated, and into the daily lives of the kings, queens, royal mistresses and courtiers who inhabited it.

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### **Session One: Power and Magnificence - Versailles under Louis XIV**

In our first session, we'll examine the transformation of Versailles from a modest hunting lodge to a grand baroque palace, which became the supreme symbol of royal power.

Focusing on the reign of Louis XIV, we'll understand the role of the architects and designers who devised the chateau's luxurious decors and furnishings, and also discuss Versailles' lavish gardens and exotic menagerie.

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### **Session Two: Precious Elegance - Versailles in the 18th Century**

Moving away from the pomp and splendour of Louis XIV's reign, in our second session we'll focus on the private apartments created for Louis XV and Marie-Antoinette.

Intimate private retreats, we'll see how these rooms were furnished with the utmost elegance and refinement, reflecting contemporary fashion. We'll also consider the Petit Trianon and its gardens - Marie-Antoinette's private refuge, which provided escape from the strict courtly etiquette.

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### **Course Tutor**

Barbara is Senior Lecturer in History of Art and Design at Sotheby's Institute of Art in London. Prior to her academic career, Barbara held curatorial positions at the V&A Wellcome Trust and the National Maritime Museum. Barbara has published on the subject of French decorative arts, the history of taste and the history of collecting. Her research interests include the production and consumption of French decorative arts, 1650-1900.

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### **Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience**

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

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### **Joining Information and Format**

This course will be taught through [Zoom Webinar](#). Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor.

Tickets are for both dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 24 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing both sessions of the course.

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### **Course Recording**

This course will be recorded. Within 48 hours of each course session, ticket holders will be emailed a link to view the recording, which will be available for two weeks only.

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