

Swing Time: Serendipitous Conversations about the Rococo



Jean-Honoré Fragonard, *Les hasards heureux de l'escarpolette (The Swing)*, about 1767-68 (detail)

Fragonard's *Les hasards heureux de l'escarpolette*, known in English as *The Swing*, is a revered painting in the Wallace Collection and one of the most representative works of art of the entire French 18th century. To celebrate the gentle cleaning and restoration of this rococo icon, we have invited five art practitioners and five scholars to participate in a series of virtual conversations inspired by its key themes: Pink, Identity, Fashion, Play, and The Libertine.

Join Dr Yuriko Jackall, Head of Curatorial and Curator of French Paintings at the Wallace Collection, to discover the influence of rococo art, and *The Swing* in particular, on artistic production today. [Register for the series of five free talks here.](#)



PINK: Dr Yuriko Jackall in conversation with Flora Yukhnovich and Dr Valerie Steele

Monday 8 November 2021, 19.00-20.00 GMT
Zoom Webinar and YouTube

Why is the colour pink so often associated with the frivolous, the dainty, and the overtly feminine? A plethora of images — of pink babies, pink flowers, pink fashion accessories — has cemented the gendering of pink in our collective imagination. Such is the case of Fragonard's *Swing*, which displays at its centre a young woman in a billowing pink dress.

In this conversation, Dr Yuriko Jackall, artist Flora Yukhnovich, and curator Valerie Steele explore the widespread perception of the colour pink as particularly representative of femininity and the Rococo. [See full event details here.](#)



IDENTITY: Dr Yuriko Jackall in conversation with Catherine Yass and Dr Rosalind McKeever

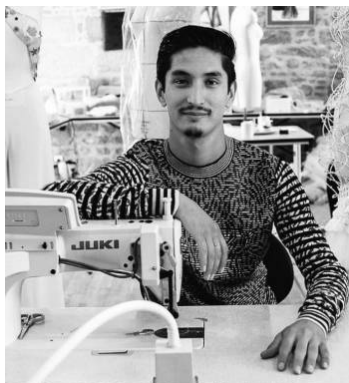
Monday 22 November 2021, 19.00-20.00 GMT
Zoom Webinar and YouTube

The name and motivations of the person who commissioned *The Swing* remain obscure. So do the identities of the three people depicted. Only the painter, Jean-Honoré Fragonard, is known to us. In cases like these, art historians rely upon visual clues to understand what is being represented.



In this talk, Dr Yuriko Jackall is joined by artist Catherine Yass and curator Dr Rosalind McKeever in a conversation about how visual codes – dress, gesture, and representation of place – shape the way in which we read and perceive identity.

[See full event details here.](#)



FASHION: Dr Yuriko Jackall in conversation with Sami Nouri and Jessica Degain

Monday 29 November 2021, 19.00-20.00 GMT
Zoom Webinar and YouTube

During the last decades of the *ancien régime* (1760–1789), Paris became the epicentre of the fashion world. Vogues for hairstyle, dress shape, fabric patterns, or silk colour came and went, with the vertiginous rapidity associated to today's ever-evolving fashion industry. Like his teacher, François Boucher, Fragonard excelled in putting his protagonists in the latest fashions. The fabrics, trimmings and garments flowing from the brushes of these painters have, in turn, inspired fashion designers for the last 250 years.



Join Dr Yuriko Jackall, haute-couture fashion designer Sami Nouri, and curator Jessica Degain as they explore how 18th-century fashions continue to resonate today.

[See full event details here.](#)



PLAY: Dr Yuriko Jackall in conversation with Monster Chetwynd and Dr Clair Le Couteur

Monday 6 December 2021, 19.00-20.00 GMT
Zoom Webinar and YouTube

In sharp opposition to the architectural and rectilinear motifs of Classicism, the rococo aesthetic is populated by sinuous forms inspired by nature. Rocks, shells, leafy branches and sprigs of flowers introduce novelty and a sense of surprise into the furniture, wall panels and textiles of the eighteenth century. In turn, the unexpected playfulness of these rococo interiors encouraged a certain theatricality and whimsy in the demeanour of those who inhabited them.

Dr Yuriko Jackall, artist Monster Chetwynd, and artist, educator and folk singer Dr Clair Le Couteur discuss the resonance of rococo playfulness in contemporary practice, with special attention to layering, unusual juxtapositions, and the role of performance art as a means for exploring the eccentricities of everyday life.

Please note that Alice Strang, who was previously advertised as a speaker for this event, will no longer be participating on this occasion.
[See full event details here.](#)



THE LIBERTINE: Dr Yuriko Jackall in conversation with Simon Bejer and Chantal Thomas

Monday 13 December 2021, 19.00-20.00 GMT
Zoom Webinar and YouTube

After enduring years of tight control under Louis XIV, the 18th-century privileged classes enjoyed unprecedented freedom during the Regency and the reign of Louis XV. In Paris, their lives unfolded at the opera, the theatre, and the masked ball. In their country estates and suburban *maisons de plaisance*, they tasted the escapist delights of the French pleasure garden. The intimacy of these environments invited a relaxation of etiquette and, occasionally, the transgression of moral codes.

In the final conversation of our series, Dr Yuriko Jackall, artist and theatre designer Simon Bejer, and writer Chantal Thomas, discuss how changes in moral codes in 18th-century France impacted the arts and literature.

[See full event details here.](#)

Funds for the conservation of *The Swing* were generously provided to the Wallace Collection by the Bank of America Art Conservation Project.