

From Venice to Paris: Luxury Arts and Elegant Living (1500–1800)

Dates Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 January 2023

Times 11.00–13.00 GMT

Location Online (Zoom Webinar)

Tutor Dr Barbara Lasic

Level All Levels



Interior, Hôtel de la Marine

Course Description

Discover the precious furniture, exotic porcelain, costly fabrics and rare objects that adorned the homes of the Venetian and Parisian elites. On this weekend course you'll learn about the role these items played in their original domestic settings, and consider how they were used to convey the social rank of their owners.

Looking at the Wallace Collection and beyond, this course spans three centuries of patronage and collecting. We'll examine some of the most iconic and luxurious interiors of the Renaissance and the 18th-century – all remarkable for their magnificence and stylistic diversity. Through evocative examples, we'll consider the artistic, cultural and social climates that enabled their creation, and discover some of the most celebrated artists and patrons of the period.

Session One: Luxury and Magnificence in the Venetian Renaissance Palazzo

A gateway to Asia, Venice was a city of wealthy patrons and virtuoso craftsmen. Venetian palaces were famed for their splendour and mobilised a range of luxurious objects such as maiolica, embroidered textiles, gilt leather, and glass. In our first session, we'll consider the richness and material diversity of 16th-century Venice and learn how the masterpieces of Renaissance decorative arts were envisaged, consumed and displayed in elite interiors.

Session Two: Elegant Living in the 18th-Century Parisian Townhouse

The 18th century was a period of great inventiveness and originality in French decorative arts, with Paris the unrivalled European capital of fashion. Its crowning achievement was undoubtedly the creation of lavishly appointed interiors that were both supremely elegant and eminently comfortable. Focusing on iconic Parisian townhouses such as the Hôtel de Soubise, in our second session we'll explore the precious furnishings of fashionable 18th-century interiors, and learn how changing social conventions affected their design and use.

Course Tutor

Dr Barbara Lasic is a Lecturer in History of Art at Sotheby's Institute of Art, London. She is an external examiner for the Open University and a regular Consultant Lecturer at the V&A museum. 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.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

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

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.

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 one week only.
