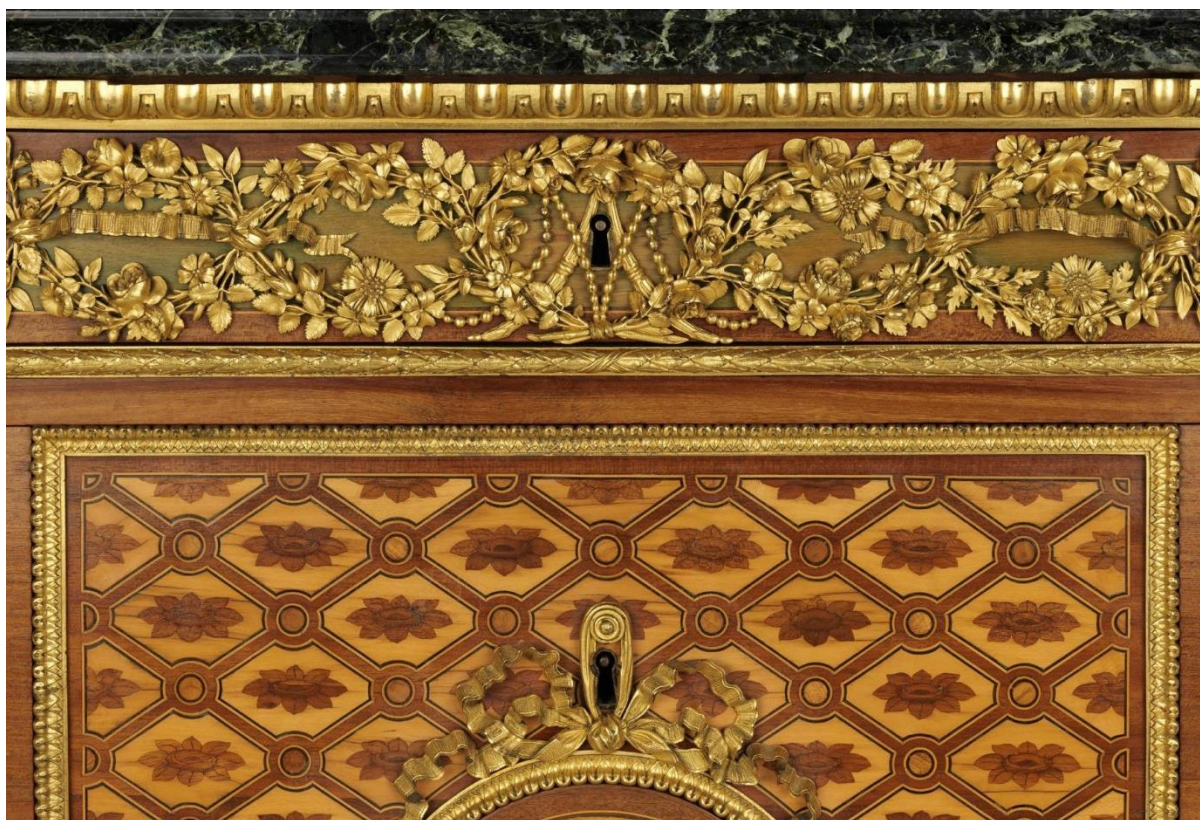


Boulle and Riesener: Two Royal Cabinetmakers

Dates	Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 February 2023
Times	14.00-16.00 GMT
Location	Theatre and galleries, at the museum
Tutor	Alexander Collins
Level	All Levels



Jean-Henri Riesener, Chest-of-drawers, 1780 (detail)

Course Description

Discover the extraordinary furniture created by the French royal cabinetmakers André-Charles Boulle and Jean-Henri Riesener. You'll learn about the careers of these two outstanding craftsmen, the development of their furniture, and their influence on royal and aristocratic taste.

Exploring the Wallace Collection's world-class collection of furniture by Boulle and Riesener through illustrated talks and walking tours, this course will explore the work they carried out for the French royal court, from Louis XIV to Marie-Antoinette. We'll study some of the greatest furniture and interiors of the 17th- and 18th- centuries, and familiarise ourselves with the ingenious techniques the cabinetmakers used to make their masterpieces.

Session One: Boulle

Nothing captures the spirit of Louis XIV's age more than the furniture of Boulle. With his use of bold forms, sculptural gilt-bronze mounts and distinctive turtleshell marquetry, Boulle's instantly recognisable designs catered to the Baroque taste of the French court. His furniture was hugely successful, and he was appointed cabinetmaker to Louis XIV with lodgings at the Louvre. Even after his death, the style of furniture he created remained popular long into the 18th and 19th centuries. In our first session, we'll focus on Boulle's key commissions and take a closer look at his remarkable marquetry and mounts.

Session Two: Riesener

Leaving behind humble beginnings in Germany, Riesener emigrated to Paris in the 1750s, the centre of luxury in 18th-century Europe. Here, he worked for another German-born cabinetmaker, Jean-François Oeben, whose workshop he would eventually inherit. Capturing the attention of the French royal court after delivering a groundbreaking roll-top desk to Versailles, Riesener went on to have a glittering career as cabinetmaker to Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette. In our second session, we'll explore some of the most outstanding pieces Riesener created for the French royal court and consider the materials and designs that made his work exceptional.

Course Tutor

Alexander Collins is an Assistant Curator for exhibitions at the Wallace Collection. He is working on the upcoming exhibition, *Portraits of Dogs: From Gainsborough to Hockney*, which celebrates the special relationship between humans and dogs, exclusively through canine portraiture. Previously, he was a Leverhulme Fellow at the Wallace Collection for the prestigious Riesener Project, in which he researched the furniture of Jean-Henri Riesener and contributed to the Project's monograph and digital resources. Alexander was also Decorative Arts Curatorial Intern at the Royal Collection.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

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

Joining Information and Format

This course will take place in person in our Theatre, Lower Ground Floor. The course involves some walking and standing in gallery spaces with limited seating.

To help keep everyone safe, capacity in the Theatre is restricted to support social distancing. Please do not attend if you have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, have had a positive coronavirus test, or have been asked to self-isolate.

For full visiting details, please see www.wallacecollection.org/visit.
