

Luxurious Living: French Cabinets, Salons and Boudoirs

Dates	Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 July 2024
Times	18.00–20.00 BST
Location	Online (Zoom)
Tutor	Dr Barbara Lasic
Level	All Levels



Le grand cabinet de travail (Hôtel de la Marine, Paris) © Jean-Pierre Dalbéra via Wikimedia Commons

Course Description

Discover the elegant cabinets, salons and boudoirs that formed part of the opulent apartments of French châteaux and townhouses. We'll investigate some of the most luxurious French interiors of the 17th and 18th centuries – celebrated for the richness of their furnishings and remarkable for the diversity of their stylistic influences. Delving into the lives of the kings, queens, aristocrats and courtesans who commissioned and inhabited these rooms, you'll learn about the function that these interiors played, and how their decoration was used to convey the social rank of their owners.

Session One: Private Luxury and the Art of the 17th-Century Cabinet

In our first session we'll examine the articulation of the 17th-century interior and the role played by cabinets in elite residences, from grand Parisian townhouses like the Hôtel Lambert to royal châteaux like the Palace of Versailles. Unlike great galleries, cabinets were luxurious private retreats. Used for the display of art and for the performance of social ambitions, we'll see how they often showcased the works of some of the most important artists of the period.

Session Two: Elegant Living – 18th-Century Salons and Boudoirs

The 18th century was a period of great inventiveness and originality in French domestic architecture and decorative arts. Responding to an increased desire for comfort and privacy, rooms became increasingly specialised. In our second session we'll examine the different social functions of Salons and Boudoirs, and how their design and decoration reflected contemporary fashions including the styles of chinoiserie and turqueries.

Course Tutor

Dr Barbara Lasic is a Senior Lecturer in Art and Design History and Research and Knowledge Lead at Sotheby's Institute of Art in London. She is also a regular Consultant Lecturer at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Wallace Collection. Prior to her academic career, Barbara worked at the Victoria & Albert Museum as part of the curatorial team involved in the redevelopment of the Europe: 1600-1800 galleries, and she held curatorial positions at the Wellcome Trust and the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Barbara has published on the subject of French decorative arts, the history of taste and the history of collecting, and museum architecture. Her research interests include the production and consumption of French decorative arts from 1650 to 1900, the formation of museums, the private and institutional collecting and display of French art, and, more broadly, 19th and early 20th-century cultures of collecting.

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 two weeks.
