
Art Appreciation lecture series 2022**Pomp and ceremony: The celebratory role in art**

Post-pomp: the rise of private life in eighteenth-century French art

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Lecture summary

This lecture considers the rejection of pomp and ceremony in eighteenth-century French art in favour of liberty, privacy, and imagination. It focuses on France in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, from the personal rule of Louis XIV in 1661 to the portraits of Marie Antoinette. The lecture begins with the highly ceremonial role of art during the reign of Louis XIV and the way portraiture and history painting are used to construct his magnificence and authority. We then turn to the embrace of ambiguity, individuality, and domestic life in the paintings of Watteau and Chardin. Finally, we look at what happens when French royal portraiture adopts the new ideals of privacy, liberty, and naturalness that flourish in the eighteenth century. This is exemplified by the debacle around Vigée LeBrun's portraits of Marie Antoinette from the 1780s.

Slide list

1. Henri Testelin, *Louis XIV aged 10*, 1648, oil on canvas, 207.5 x 155 cm, Château de Versailles
2. Claude Lefebvre, *Jean-Baptiste Colbert*, 1666, oil on canvas, 138 x 113 cm, Château de Versailles
3. Henri Gisse, *Louis XIV in the guise of Apollo* 1654, graphite, watercolour, bodycolour and gold paint on vellum, 30.4 x 22.5 cm, Royal Collections Trust, UK
4. Henri Testelin, *Louis XIV as Protector of the Academy of Painting and Sculpture*, oil on canvas, 1668, 370 x 284 cm, Château de Versailles
5. Charles LeBrun, *Self portrait*, 1684, Uffizi, Florence
6. Pierre Patel, *The Palace of Versailles*, c1668, oil on canvas, 115 x 161 cm, Château de Versailles
7. Grand Galerie, or Galerie des glaces (Hall of mirrors), Château de Versailles, begun 1678
8. Charles Le Brun, *The King Governs by Himself*, 1661, 1681-84, ceiling painting, Galerie des Glaces, Château de Versailles
9. Hyacinthe Rigaud, *Louis XIV*, 1701, oil on canvas, Château de Versailles
10. After Hyacinthe Rigaud, *Louis XV as a Child*, c 1716–24
11. Jean-Baptiste Santerre, *Philippe II d'Orleans*, 1715-23, 126.4 x 101 cm, oil on canvas, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
12. Antoine Watteau, *The Cajoler* and *The Faun*, 1707-8, Valenciennes
13. Antoine Watteau,
14. *La Perspective* (View through the Trees in the Park of Pierre Crozat), c. 1715, oil on canvas, 46.7 x 55.3 cm, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
15. Antoine Watteau, *The Pilgrimage to Cythera*, 1717, oil on canvas, Musée du Louvre
16. Antoine Watteau, *Gersaint's Shopsign*, oil on canvas, 1720, 163 x 308 cm, Schloss Charlottenburg
17. Jean-Baptiste Siméon Chardin, *Lady Sealing a Letter*, 1733, 146 x 147 cm, oil on canvas, Schloss Charlottenburg, Berlin

18. Jean-Baptiste Siméon Chardin, *The Kitchen Servant*, 1738, oil on canvas, 46 x 37 cm, Schloss Charlottenburg, Berlin
19. Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin, *The Washerwoman*, 1733, oil on oak, 37 x 42.5 cm, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm
20. Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin, *Woman Drawing Water*, 1733, oil on oak, 37,6 x 42 cm, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm
21. Chardin, *The Morning Toilet*, 1740-41, oil on canvas, 49 x 39 cm, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm
22. Chardin, *Saying Grace*, 1740s, oil on canvas, 49 x 39 cm, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm
23. Chardin, *Boy Blowing Bubbles*, 1733-1734, oil on canvas 93 x 74.6 cm, National Gallery, Washington D.C.
24. Chardin, *Saying Grace*, 1740s, oil on canvas, 49 x 39 cm, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm
25. The Petit Trianon, 1762-67, designed by Ange-Jacques Gabriel, Versailles
26. Hameau de la reine (Hamlet of the queen), Versailles, designed by Richard Mique, 1777-1783
27. The Mill, Hameau de la reine (Hamlet of the queen), Versailles, designed by Richard Mique, 1777-1783
28. Elisabeth Vigée LeBrun, *Marie Antoinette en chemise*, 1783, oil on canvas, 90 x 72 cm, private collection
29. Elisabeth Vigée LeBrun, *Marie Antoinette with a Rose*, 1783-84, 117 x 89 cm
30. Elisabeth Vigée LeBrun, *Marie Antoinette and her children*, 1787, oil on canvas, 275 cm x 216.5 cm, Château de Versailles
31. Angelica Kauffman, *Cornelia, mother of the Gracchi, pointing to her children as her treasures*, 1785, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

References

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