

# *Boucher, Watteau* AND THE ORIGIN OF THE ROCOCO

The nineteenth-century novelists and art critics, the Goncourt brothers, called François Boucher (1703 – 1770) “one of those men who signify the taste of a century, who express, personify and incarnate it.” During his lifetime Boucher was regarded as the foremost draughtsman in France, ranked by his contemporaries amongst the greatest draughtsman of all time.

This exhibition locates Boucher among his immediate predecessors and contemporaries, showing his central role in defining the new style taken up by the French aristocracy and Royal court during the reign of Louis XV, a style which became known as Rococo.

Boucher, Watteau and the Origin of the Rococo consists of more than eighty drawings from one of the world's foremost collections of Old Master drawings, The École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
4 MARCH – 1 MAY 2005



# Exhibition Events

## FREE GUIDED TOURS

Daily 1pm  
14 March – 1 May  
Wednesday evenings 7.30pm  
16 March – 27 April

## FREE FRIDAY LECTURES

Domain Theatre, 1pm

- 8 April Christopher Allen  
*The transition from Baroque to Rococo in the art at Versailles*
- 15 April Peter McNeil  
*Dressed to Thrill – Costume in 18th century France*
- 22 April Jennifer Milam  
*Court culture and the Rococo style*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Study Afternoon

Talks by the curator of the exhibition Emmanuelle Brugerolles; Christopher Allen; Jennifer Milam. \$20 (\$15 conc.) includes exhibition viewing. Friday 11 March, 1–3pm  
Bookings tel. (02) 9225 1740

### Special screening

Ariane Mnouchkine's classic film *Molière* 1978. Free admission  
Saturday 12 March & 26 March  
12 noon–4.40pm

### Alliance Française brunch

10am Sunday 13 March  
Talk by exhibition curator, Emmanuelle Brugerolles, in French, and champagne brunch. \$35 (\$30 conc.)  
Booking essential (02) 9225 1878

## FREE FILM PROGRAM

Curated by Robert Herbert  
Wednesdays 2pm & 7.15pm  
Sundays 2pm

- 16 March & 20 March  
*Tous les matins du monde*  
A dissolute musician in the court of Louis XIV recalls life with his eccentric teacher, the seventeenth century French composer Monsieur de Sainte Colombe
- 23 March & 27 March  
*Marquise* A young dancer catches attention of the court of Louis XIV with her bawdy, uninhibited style
- 30 March & 3 April  
*Ridicule* A minor aristocrat arrives at the court of Louis XVI seeking to improve the lives of his peasants, only to discover that he is unskilled in court protocols
- 6 April & 10 April  
*Si Versailles m'était conté\**  
An ironic, picture book history of the famous Château de Versailles  
*Dangerous Liaisons* A dark and witty story of competitive sexual games between two jaded French aristocrats
- 13 April & 17 April  
*Danton* Vivid historical re-creation of the events surrounding the execution of French revolutionary figure, Danton, by onetime comrades

\* Early screening 10.45am.

All films (excepting *Dangerous Liaisons*) are French with English subtitles.



# art.afterhours

EVERY WEDNESDAY 5–9PM

The Art Gallery is open until 9pm every Wednesday. Enjoy *Boucher*, *Watteau and the Origin of the Rococo* and free events.

## EXHIBITION TALKS 5.30PM

- 16 March Peter Raissis, curator, Art Gallery NSW
- 23 March Terence Maloon, curator, Art Gallery NSW
- 30 March Michele Hiscock, artist and teacher, National Art School

## CELEBRITY TALKS 6.30PM

- 9 March Jean Poncet, Cultural Counsellor, French Embassy, *The Rococo haven: art for pleasure in a century of political propaganda*
- 16 March Linda Jaivin, writer, *Womankind undressed: the seductions of Boucher*
- 23 March Moffatt Oxenbould, Opera director, *Operatic glants of the Rococo period*
- 30 March Libbi Gorr, writer & performer, *Rococolossal: women in charge*

## CHAMBER MUSIC 6.30PM

Curated by Marshall McGuire

- 6 April Pièces de clavecin, Neal Peres da Costa, harpsichord. Music by Louis Couperin, François Couperin, Jean-Philippe Rameau
- 13 April Sacred and Secular, Jane Edwards, soprano, Neal Peres da Costa, harpsichord, Danny Yeadon, cello
- 20 April Le tombeau de Couperin, Christina Leonard, saxophone, Marshall McGuire, harp. Music by Boismortier, Maurice Ravel, Jean-Philippe Rameau
- 27 April Music of Marin Marais, The Marais Project: Jennifer Ericksson, viola da gamba, Catherine Tabrett viola da gamba, Tommi Andersson, lute

## FREE FILMS 7.15PM

## GUIDED TOURS OF THE BOUCHER, WATTEAU AND ROCOCO EXHIBITION 7.30PM

## LIVE MUSIC IN THE ARTBAR 7PM

[www.artafterhours.com.au](http://www.artafterhours.com.au)



START A CONVERSATION  
The Sydney Morning Herald



Cover: François Boucher. Recumbent woman seen from behind (detail). Page 3: François Boucher. Design for a frontispiece (detail).  
Page 5: Gabriel Huquier. Décor with trellised doorway and fountain (detail). This page: Jean-Antoine Watteau. Woman practicing a dance step.  
All images courtesy Ensba, Paris.