

SERENISSIME! VENISE EN FÊTE DE TIEPOLO À GUARDI

PRESS
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COGNACQ-JAY
MUSEUM:
TASTE IN THE
18TH CENTURY

EXHIBITION FROM 25 FEBRUARY 2017
TO 25 JUNE 2017

INFORMATION:
MUSEECOGNACQJAY.
PARIS.FR

In the eighteenth century, the political and economic stability of the Serenissima Repubblica di Venezia gave rise to the last golden age of Venice, which would end with the Napoleonic conquest of 1797. This last chapter of a millenary history was marked by an unprecedented deployment of public and private events. Festivities, celebrations, regattas and other spectacles set the tempo of city life and attracted the curious and the captivated from all over Europe.

Much more than simple amusements, these festivities, such as the carnival, were part of a political and religious pageant designed to promote Venice. Immortalized by some of the great names in painting – Tiepolo, Guardi, Longhi – they created a lasting impression and made known the charms of the City of the Doges throughout Europe. Over forty paintings, engravings and drawings from prestigious French and European collections will be presented to the public, bringing to life once again, for the duration of the exhibition, the opulence of the Most Serene Republic of Venice in the Age of Enlightenment.

The exhibition layout focuses on four themes related to Venetian celebrations:

Festivities Large and Small: Dance and music were highly esteemed by Venetian society, among both the aristocracy and the people.

From City to Stage: In the eighteenth century, the *commedia dell'arte* achieved unprecedented popularity, in particular with playwright Carlo Goldoni. Opera also benefited from majestic settings, the most famous of which is still *La Fenice*.

Power as Spectacle: Both secular and sacred institutions in the Most Serene Republic encouraged the crowds to attend major festivities that crystallized the image of Venice as a powerful and sumptuous city. Receptions for foreign princes, notably French, also provided an opportunity to organize extraordinary celebrations on Piazza San Marco or the Grand Canal.

At the carnival: What would Venice be without its carnival? Dating from the Middle Ages, this colorful masked festival brought together an eighteenth-century cosmopolitan crowd that loved the open-air fairground attractions as much as it did the more discreet amusements of the *Ridotto*, the ancestor of the casino.



Falca Pietro (1702-1785), known as Pietro Longhi
The Charlatan,
Toulouse, Bemberg Foundation.
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COMMISSION

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Curator, Cognacq-Jay Museum

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Chief Heritage Curator and
Director of the Cognacq-Jay
Museum

USEFUL INFORMATION

COGNACQ-JAY MUSEUM: TASTE IN THE 18TH CENTURY

8, rue Elzévir - 75003 Paris

Tel.: 01 40 27 07 21

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Except Monday and certain holidays



#expoSerenissime
@muséecj

TICKETS

Full rate: €8

Reduced rate: €6

EXHIBITION CATALOG

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