Michel-Barthélemy Ollivier (1761 - 1845)
The game of draughts, circa 1765
Oil on canvas
Ville de Paris, musée Cognacq-Jay
Inv. J 89

Roger Van der Cruse, known as Lacroix or RVLC (1727 - 1799)
Desk, circa 1770
Ebony, boxwood, tinted holly and sycomore tree, gilded bronze
Ville de Paris, musée Cognacq-Jay
Inv. J 401

Louis-Joseph Watteau, known as Watteau de Lille (1731 - 1798)
Gathering in a Park, circa 1785
Oil on canvas
Ville de Paris, musée Cognacq-Jay
Inv. J 108

This gathering, which might almost have been captured live, gives a hint of the exchanges and leisure activities of Parisian society: the relaxed atmosphere, the games, the elegance of the fashionable dresses, and a pleasure garden with pools and classical statuary. The family setting also evokes the writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), particularly the first Émile books, which stressed the importance of experiment, particularly through games, in children’s education.

Anonymous
Secrétaire - Jewel box, circa 1760
Oak, marquetry with boxwood and amaranth on rosewood, gilded bronze, leather
Ville de Paris, Musée Cognacq-Jay
Inv. J 379

This gathering, which might almost have been captured live, gives a hint of the exchanges and leisure activities of Parisian society: the relaxed atmosphere, the games, the elegance of the fashionable dresses, and a pleasure garden with pools and classical statuary. The family setting also evokes the writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), particularly the first Émile books, which stressed the importance of experiment, particularly through games, in children’s education.

Anonymous
Small secrétaire for lady, circa 17550 - 1765
Oak and pine, marquetry
Ville de Paris, Musée Cognacq-Jay
Inv. J 326

The interior scene shows three figures, a sick and pale old man in an armchair and his young wife, who is listening to the advice of a man dressed in an oriental costume and carrying a box of remedies. The title of the painting is a direct reference to Jean de La Fontaine’s poem The Sick Abbess. The painting is a double satire of ordinary life, at once a critique of the age difference between the spouses and the fashion for remedies vaunted and sold by quack doctors.