

For Immediate Release

Minneapolis Institute of Art Organizes Exhibition of 18th Century French Periodicals Highlighting Influence of Fashion, Music in Revolutionary France

August 22, 2022

MINNEAPOLIS--The Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) today announced an exhibition of 18th-century French periodicals documenting the French Revolution and the tumultuous years leading up to it. "Revolution à la Mode: Fashion and Music in Revolutionary France" features hand-colored fashion plates, illustrating how fashion, theater, and politics influenced one another as France constructed a new democracy. The exhibition, curated by Nicole LaBouff, Mia's Associate Curator of Textiles, will be on view in the Cargill Gallery from September 10, 2022, through March 5, 2023. This exhibition marks the first time these items have been on view.

In a unique pairing, the exhibition showcases fashion plates and musical scores that were published side by side in periodicals for the entertainment and edification of the public. These publications were among the first modern fashion magazines, with the illustrations documenting the fashions that fluctuated with the changing political tides. More than 20 of these fashion plates will be on display, alongside paintings and sculpture that offer context.

In planning for this project, Mia partnered with violinist Peter Sheppard Skærved of London's Royal Academy of Music and musicologist Rebecca Geoffroy-Schwinden of the University of North Texas to arrange new recordings of these songs long lost to history, which visitors will be able to hear in the gallery and on Mia's website. Important but understudied contributions by women to the music of this period—uncovered through exhibition research—will be highlighted in the display. Skærved will perform the pieces live at Mia in a public program on October 18.

"We learn more about the fashion plates and the musical scores by featuring them side-by-side in this exhibition," said LaBouff. "Most of this music has never been recorded before and we are excited to bring it to life in this exhibition. Clothing and music shape politics from the ground up, and this show offers visitors the chance to understand the atmosphere of Revolutionary France through those lenses."

The fashion plates and musical scores featured in this show were a gift from the collection of Dwight and Helen Minnich. This is a free exhibition.



Pierre de La Mésangère (French, 1761-1831), Plate No. 610, from *Journal des Dames et des Modes*, 1805, hand-colored engraving. The Minnich Collection The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund. 1966 P.16,814. Photo: Minneapolis Institute of Art

For Immediate Release

Press Contacts

Minneapolis Institute of Art
Molly Lax
mlax@artsmia.org
+1 612 870 3013

Minneapolis Institute of Art
Allie Johnson
allie.johnson@artsmia.org
+1 612 870 3171

PAVE Communications & Consulting
Kat Harding
kat@paveconsult.com
+1 440 759 8148

About the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest art collections in the country—from all corners of the globe, and from ancient to contemporary—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit artsmia.org

