Seminars in the History of Collecting

Lieux de collection: the interiors of Jean de Jullienne's paintings collection

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Monday, 26 June, 5.30 pm The Wallace Collection Lecture Theatre

This seminar focuses on entrepreneur, amateur and collector Jean de Jullienne (1686-1766), whose comprehensive activities are paradigmatic of the heyday of private collecting during the *Régence* period. Chiefly known for his substantial collection of Dutch, Flemish and French paintings, Jullienne also spent lavishly on furniture and sculpture, as well as porcelain, lacquer objects and other exotic curiosities. Director of the *Manufacture royale des Gobelins*, the leading producer of *tapisseries* and other luxurious furnishings, his private *hôtel* adjacent to the manufactory was at the heart of a dynamic artistic milieu that defined the style of contemporary fashionable interiors.

While recent research on Jullienne and fellow collectors of his time has focused on the identification of individual paintings and the social and professional networks involved in the formation of these cabinets, little attention has been given to the interiors which housed these works.

Understanding the collection as an intrinsic part of the domestic realm, this seminar will investigate the creation and modification of domestic spaces to accommodate works of art in early eighteenth-century Paris. Taking into account archival evidence as well as contemporary writings on architecture and interior design, the paper will explore the principles according to which an interior intended for the display of paintings was conceived and how the juxtaposition of different colours, textures and material qualities was used to impact the sensory effect of the presentation.