VERSAILLES AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

EXHIBITION AT THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES
JULY 5TH - OCTOBER 2ND 2016
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EXHIBITION CURATOR

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of Versailles and Trianon

cover and last page: The taking of Yorktown, Octobre 19th, 1781, 1785, Louis Nicolas Van Blarenberghe, Palace of Versailles

opposite: Taking of Saint Kitts and Nevis Islands, February 13th, 1782, 1789, Auguste-Louis de Rossel de Cercy, Palace of Versailles
VERSAILLES, CRADLE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY

THIS EXHIBITION PROPOSES TO SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS at the end of the Ancien Régime. Under the reign of Louis the Sixteenth, the Palace of Versailles, stronghold of the French government, became a major place for the establishment of the American independance and its reckoning by European powers. Indeed, the first American foreign diplomacy took place in Versailles.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, the American, British, and French perspectives will be processed in a French exhibition by historians of these three countries in order to understand the evolution of the mindsets and confront their war depictions in visual arts. This exhibition aims to overcome a national point of view in the interpretation of the events.

THIS MAJOR EVENT OF 2016 will take place in the Gallery of Battles, built under Louis-Philippe’s reign and inaugurated in 1837. For this gallery, Auguste Couder received the commission of The Battle of Yorktown, sole battle in this gallery linked to the reign of Louis the Sixteenth. This depiction of a historical event under the Ancien Régime relates the continuous interest the French monarchy showed for the United States. After the records and the reports of the historical events, this depiction in the 1830s allows us to talk about the American legend and to draw a parallel with John Trumbull’s works of art.
1. THE DIPLOMATIC CONTEXT UNTIL THE INDEPENDENCE

- The diplomatic relations within Europe since the end of the French and Indian War
- Is it a French retaliation? Louis the Sixteenth’s interest for navy, shipments, but also for a young republic
- The independence process and the birth of a nation: shirkmishes against the Stamp Act (Boston Tea Party), the Founding Fathers and the insurgents
2. THE ALLIANCE WITH FRANCE AND THE ACTUAL HELP FROM FRANCE

- The place of the American Revolution in Versailles: the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778 and the political and military alliance between France and the United States. The enthusiasm of the French court for the American ambassadors
- The French Allies: Spain and Holland during war
- The Treaty of Paris (1783)

3. THE CONTEMPORARIES DEPICTIONS OF THE WAR

- The French government sent weapons, money and troops. Men of war and peace
- The role of the French Navy and the difficulties for a military collaboration
- The commission of 16 works to the French painter Rossel de Cercy. The British and American contemporary depictions of fighting

4. THE LEGEND OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN FRANCE

- Paintings by the American artist John Trumbull, at once painter and soldier
- *The Battle of Yorktown* by Auguste Couder
Portrait of La Fayette, Jean-Antoine Houdon, 1790, marbre, Palace of Versailles, MV 1573.
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TAX DEDUCTION:
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► For companies: a tax reduction (corporate tax) of 60% of the gift amount, limited to 0.5% of the turnover of the company, with the possibility of carrying over the surplus - if the limit is exceeded - over the following five years.

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► For tax payers in the United States, their gift can be tax-deductible according to the Internal Revenue Service regulation applicable to 501 (c) 3 organisations.
YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE MENTIONED on all information materials associated with the Exhibition: posters, banners hanging at the Palace entrance and the Estate entrance, invitations to the preview, press announcements, Exhibition postcards, flyleaf of the Exhibition catalogue.

EXCEPTIONAL VISIBILITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE:
In 2015-16:
► 7.7 million visitors to the Palace including 14% of American visitors
► 14,500 mentions of the Palace of Versailles, all press formats combined
► 11 million visitors to all the Palace of Versailles websites
► 7.5 million views on the Palace of Versailles YouTube channel
► 1 million subscribers on our social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Googles + and WeChat)

PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENTS IN THE PRESTIGIOUS SETTING OF THE VERSAILLES ESTATE. Receptions inside the Palace (Battles Gallery, Crusades, Rooms, Low Gallery, Chapel Room...) and in the Cotelle Gallery in the Grand Trianon, along with private viewings of the Exhibition.

OPERATIONS ORGANISED FOR THE PRESS:
► Press previews organised by the Palace of Versailles
► Name of your company on the press files sent out to 2,500 French and International journalists.
► Your own presentation sheet inside the press file

INVITATIONS FOR THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION reserved for your clients and special contacts

FREE PASSES valid for one visit to the Exhibition during public opening hours

"A YEAR AT VERSAILLES" SUBSCRIPTION CARDS giving unlimited access to the Versailles Château and Estate during public opening hours for an entire year.

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