
**LET'S REUNITE
THE LASALLE
COUPLE!**
PARTICIPATE IN
THE ACQUISITION OF
A MASTERPIECE FOR
THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE

11 OCT. 2021 – 4 FEBR. 2022



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**With the patronage
of Stéphane Bern**

*"Help the Musée de l'Armée
to acquire this masterpiece!"*

**Public subscription in
partnership with**



THE SUBSCRIPTION APPEAL

REUNITING THE LASALLE SPOUSES AT THE INVALIDES

In October 2021, the Musée de l'Armée will be launching a subscription appeal to acquire the *Portrait of Joséphine d'Aiguillon, Comtesse de Lasalle, with her daughter, Charlotte-Joséphine*, painted by Antoine-Jean Gros in 1812. This monumental portrait represents the Countess in full morning clothes, alongside her daughter; in front of the bust of her deceased husband. This artwork represents the posthumous counterpart to the General's portrait, which is already part of the museum's collections.

Commissioned by General Lasalle's widow the day after he died on the battlefield of Wagram, this portrait evokes, with deep tenderness, the death of a loved one, and the strength of the romantic and filial connection. It also refers to the renewed emphasis, at that time, on fallen soldiers, as well as the families they left behind.

Through the acquisition of this piece, the museum is hoping to reunite the spouses' portraits by placing them close to each other, within its permanent exhibition, to evoke the story of the soldiers' wives and families.

The fundraising target is set at €200,000.

Antoine-Jean Gros
(1771-1835), *Portrait of Comtesse de Lasalle with her daughter*,
1812, oil on canvas,
H. 250 × L. 175 cm,
private collection.

Antoine-Jean Gros
(1771-1835), *Portrait of General Lasalle at the Siege of Stettin*, 1808, oil on canvas,
H. 248 × L. 174 cm,
© Paris - Musée de l'Armée,
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais.



PRESENTATION

OF JOSÉPHINE D'AIGUILLON AND THE LASALLE COUPLE

A daring and passionate couple

These words from the General to his wife demonstrate the passion that united these two beings. Joséphine d'Aiguillon met Comte de Lasalle in 1797, in Italy, where Napoleon's "Hussar General" distinguished himself by his heroism. At the time, she was married to General Victor Léopold Berthier, who she had three sons with. She did not hesitate to divorce him in order to marry General Lasalle on 5 December 1803. They had a daughter, Joséphine Charlotte, in 1806.

*"I love you
like tobacco
smoke
and the chaos
of war."*

A female figure of her time

Although the legendary bravery of the General overshadowed the life of his wife, Joséphine d'Aiguillon nevertheless illustrated the women's emancipation movement which began in the early 19th century. By travelling, holding court, and doing what she loved in a war-torn world, she embodied the figure of an independent woman, yearning for freedom and individual happiness. The acquisition of her portrait is in line with the Musée de l'Armée's wish to reposition women in the military history, by giving them a more prominent place.

For the museum, this will be the first great female portrait to feature in its permanent collections.



Detail of Joséphine
d'Aiguillon's face,
private collection.



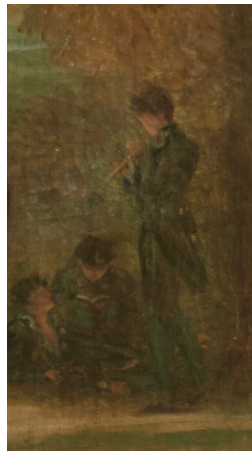
A FAMILY PORTRAIT

Detail of Charlotte-Joséphine and the three Berthier's sons who were adopted by General Lasalle, private collection.

A testament to family love

The composition of the work is based on the silent dialogue between the young widow, her eyes filled with tears, and the deceased, represented in the eternal form of a marble bust. Their daughter, Charlotte-Joséphine, dressed in a charming white dress, is trying to drag her mother towards life and the garden in which the Countess' three sons, who were adopted by General Lasalle after their father died, are located.

This portrait is a tenderly expression of the strength of the emotional bonds affected by the Napoleonic campaigns, which left many families in fear and mourning. The Musée de l'Armée wishes to give them a greater space within its rooms to illustrate this other aspect of the war:



Detail of Joséphine d'Aiguillon and her daughter face and hands, private collection.



A masterpiece of the First Empire

This portrait, a masterpiece of First Empire painting, is remarkable for its treatment of the flesh tints and textures: velvets, astrakhan, lace, as well as marble demonstrate the attention to detail and the influence of Flemish artists. The work also captures the audience's attention through its grace by displaying the beauty of the two female figures, whilst expressing their feelings with restraint. This is a distinguishing feature of the artist, the painter of both portraits, that of the Countess and of General Lasalle, who also happened to be one of the couple's friends.

Antoine-Jean Gros, a patriot and strong supporter of Napoleon, was one of the great painters of that period. Although he put his art at the service of the Empire, he nevertheless did not hesitate to convey suffering and sorrow.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Participating in the subscription means supporting the Musée de l'Armée in its acquisition project which aims to enrich its collections, and thereby enabling both portraits to be reunited within a tour which evokes the place of the fighters' wives and families.

Tax benefits

The Musée de l'Armée, as a public institution, is authorised to receive tax-deductible donations.

If you are an individual patron

You will benefit from an income tax reduction of 66% of the amount donated, limited to 20% of your taxable income.

If you are a company

For all patronage donations to the Musée de l'Armée, your company will benefit from a corporate tax reduction of 60% of the amount donated, limited to 0.5% of the turnover.

If you exceed this limit, you will be able to transfer the excess to the next five financial years.

Benefits

- **Donor - Officer cadet (from €5):** Acknowledgement on the website's wall of patrons and on the thank you panel
- **Donor - Lieutenant (from €20):** Donor diploma with your name (digital version), e-mail signature

Based on the amount of your donation, the museum can offer you a unique experience at the Invalides:

- **Donor - Captain (from €50):** Donor diploma with your name (printed version), 1 admission ticket to visit the permanent collections
- **Donor - Major (from €100):** Group guided tour for 1 person during opening hours
- **Donor - Colonel (from €500):** Group guided tour outside of opening hours for 2
- **Donor - General (from €1,000):** Group guided tour outside of opening hours for 2, in the presence of a curator; followed by a glass of champagne
- **Donor - Marshal (from €5,000):** Private guided tour outside of opening hours for 2, in the presence of a curator; followed by breakfast or a glass of champagne, invitation to the inauguration of the work / a private evening event

All benefits will be issued at the end of the fundraising, which takes place on 4 February 2022.

How can you make a donation?

By credit card

Go on ulule.com

By cheque

Please send cheques made out to the "Agent comptable du musée de l'Armée" to Mission Mécénat, Musée de l'Armée – Hôtel national des Invalides 129, rue de Grenelle 75007 Paris

By bank transfer

Ask Mission Mécénat, mecenat@musee-armee.fr +33(0)1 44 42 38 81

Are you a European or an American patron?

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Contact

Mission Mécénat

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#ReunissonsLeCoupleLasalle



I SUPPORT THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE AND ITS ACQUISITION PROJECT

of the *Portrait of Comtesse de Lasalle with her daughter* by Gros

☐ Mrs

☐ Mr*

Surname*

First Name*

Address*

Post/Zip Code*

City*

Country*

Email address*

*The information required for the management of data processing is indicated by an asterisk.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION OF:

€

€5 / €20 / €50 / €100 / €500 / €1,000 / €5,000 / Other...

All the donations we receive will be cashed in at the end of the campaign, assuming we meet our collection target. Donations will then be irrevocably allocated to the acquisition of the *Portrait of Comtesse de Lasalle with her daughter* by Gros.

Date

Signature

SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM

along with your cheque made out to the "Agent comptable du musée de l'Armée" to :

Mission Mécénat,
Musée de l'Armée – Hôtel national des Invalides
129, rue de Grenelle – 75007 Paris

- ☐ I wish to receive a tax receipt
- ☐ I wish to receive the museum's monthly general newsletter electronically
- ☐ I do not wish to take advantage of the benefits
- ☐ I do not want my name to appear in the acknowledgements
- ☐ I do not wish to receive news related to the subscription

Personal data protection: The Musée de l'Armée, as data controller, implements personal data processing for the purpose of managing the subscription. Let's reunite the Lasalle couple, tax receipts, benefits, the publication of the donor's name and communication, as well as for statistical purposes on the basis of its legitimate interest. The data set in question is necessary for processing purposes.

This data is only intended for the services of the Musée de l'Armée that require access to it. None of the data is shared with third parties.

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<https://www.musee-armee.fr/a-propos/politique-de-confidentialite>.