



## Press release

The Centre des monuments nationaux and the Barbara Paci Art Gallery present a photo exhibition at the domaine national of Saint-Cloud:

### “AGOSTINO ROCCO, THE IMAGINARY PORTRAIT GALLERY OF SAINT-CLOUD’S CASTLE”

From the 19<sup>th</sup> September to the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008

For the commemoration of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the castle’s purchase by sun king Louis XIV, the Centre des monuments nationaux and the Barbara Paci Art Gallery present at the domaine national of Saint-Cloud a set of photographic artworks by Agostino Rocco, embodying some of the main figures that influenced the castle of Saint-Cloud’s history, from its origins (1577) to his destruction (1870).

The exhibition will start the 19<sup>th</sup> September, on the occasion of the European day of patrimony, whose theme is “Patrimony&Creation”.

One by one, property of Catherine de’ Medici, of Louis XIV brother called Monsieur, of Marie-Antoinette, of Bonaparte and of Napoleon III, the domaine national of Saint-Cloud is since the French Revolution, “conserved and taken care of at the expense of the Republic, in order to serve the use of the people”.

The imaginary portrait gallery of Saint-Cloud’s castle is the first part of a series of exhibitions, which are willing to create a confrontation between the artists’ works and the area of the domain.

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The large-framed photography's (140x200) represent 18 figures and will be exposed at the museum of the domaine national of Saint-Cloud: Catherine de' Medici, Gondi, Henry III of France, Monsieur, Princess Henrietta-Anne of France, the Palatine, the Regent, Philippe Egalité, Marie-Antoinette, Mme Royale, Napoleon I, Josephine, Marie Louise, Charles X, Louis Philippe, Eugenie, Napoleon III and the Prince Imperial.

Several personalities wished to support the project by accepting to embody some of the represented figures as a model: Fernando Botero, the Prince Lorenzo Corsini, the Comtesse Mariella Scalbrin Pisani, the Princess Massimo, Flavia Fossamargutti (curator and in charge of the communication for the Venice Biennale), Lara Facco (curator at M.A.M.BO: Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna) and Stefano Contini (one of the most important gallery attendants in North Italy).

Through the realisation of contemporary photography's, Agostino Rocco wished to do a memory work on the main figures that influenced the history of the nowadays destroyed castle of Saint-Cloud. Agostino Rocco relies on the collective memory in order to create his own personal imaginary; he works the detail, involving the viewer in the context of each historical figure presented in the exhibition.

Across 18 portraits, which touch our own imaginary, the artist shows us an intimate exhibition with his own vision of the castle's history.

As part of the exhibition, the domaine national of Saint-Cloud is going to invite, during thematically arranged evenings, several speakers and/or lecturers of reputation to do a conference on one of the figures or historical events presented trough the exhibition.

*“Agostino Rocco, the imaginary portrait gallery of Saint-Cloud's castle” is organised by the Centre des monuments nationaux in partnership with the Barbara Paci Gallery.*

## **Press contact**

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## **Practical information:**

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### **Schedule**

From Tuesday to Sunday, 10am - 6pm

### **Price list**

Entrance to the museum and the exhibition: 2,50 €

Free entrance to the domain for pedestrians

Entrance price for cars (until 22h00): 4€ motorcycle: 3€

### **Access**

**Subway:** Boulogne Pont de Saint-Cloud, line 10

**Bus:** 52, 72, 160,175

**Tramway:** Parc de Saint-Cloud, T2

**Car access:** Highway A13, exit Saint-Cloud

**Train:** Station Saint-Cloud



**Henriette d'Angleterre**



**Marie-Antoinette**



**La Palatine**

## Agostino Rocco biography

Agostino Rocco was born in Padua, Italy, in 1971. He devoted himself to History of Art studies at the University of his town, focusing his attention on those ancient masters, who will become to him a constant inspiration: the great Tuscans and Flemish painters of the XV Century and the great Dutch and French Schools of the XVII Century: Vermeer, Rembrandt, Poussin and La Tour in particular.

He dedicated most of his official studies to Foreign Literature, History, Music and Art, learning by himself painting and photography techniques.

Even if still young, he collected several personal expositions in important private and public spaces. A selection among them:

- November 2003, Personal Exhibition at "Casa Giorgio Cini", Ferrara, Italy.
- July 2004, P.E. at "Barbara Paci Art Gallery", Pietrasanta, Italy.
- December 2004, P.E. at "Palazzo Loredan Dell'Ambasciatore", Venice, Italy.
- July 2005, P.E. at "Frau Atlantica" space, Miami, USA.
- December 2006, P.E. at the "Italian Culture Centre", Amsterdam, NL.
- June 2007, Group Exhibition "Puella Aeterna" at "Barbara Paci Art Gallery", Pietrasanta, Italy.

In the meanwhile he was present at important Art Fairs in Italy (Verona, Naples, and Florence) and abroad (Miami, Palm Beach, Scoop-Basel) with his Italian and American galleries ("Barbara Paci" in Pietrasanta and "Westwood" in New York).

- Casa Giorgio in Ferrare in 2003
- Palazzo Loredan of the ambassadors in Venice, in 2005
- Show-room Poltrona Frau Atlantica in Miami, Florida during spring 2005
- Institute of Italian culture in Amsterdam in December 2006
- Exhibition Puella Aeterna at the Barbara Paci Art Gallery in 2007
- Group exhibition, during the Sacred Music Festival at the Cathedral of Monaco in June 2007
- Art Basel-Miami, Westwood Gallery NY, Miami, USA in December 2007
- Toscan Sun Festival, Barbara Paci Art Gallery Cortona in Arezzo, Italy in August 2008
- Art Verona, Verona Modern and Contemporary Art Fair in Verona, Italy in October 2008
- PAC – Padiglione di Arte Contemporanea – Festa Barrocca, in October 2008 in Milan, Italy
- Palm Beach3, Contemporary Art Fair, Palm Beach in Florida, USA in January 2009

Agostino Rocco is represented by the Barbara Paci Art Gallery, Pietrasanta, Italy and by the Westwood Gallery in New York





## The list of characters presented in the imaginary portrait gallery of Saint-Cloud's castle:

1. Catherine de' Medici
2. Cardinal Gondi
3. Henry III of France
4. Philippe, duke of Orleans, called Monsieur, unique brother of Louis XIV
5. Princess Henriette-Anna of France, first wife of Monsieur
6. The Palatine, second wife of Monsieur
7. Philippe from Orleans, the regent, son of Monsieur
8. Philippe Egalite, great-great-grandson of Monsieur
9. Marie-Antoinette
10. Mme Royale, eldest daughter of Louis XVI
11. Napoleon I & Josephine
12. Marie Louise, second wife of Napoleon
13. Charles X
14. Louis Philippe
15. Empress Eugenie of France, wife of Napoleon III
16. Napoleon III
17. Prince Imperial: Louis Napoleon is often referred to as the **prince imperial**



# The domaine national of Saint-Cloud

## **A domaine in the heart of history...**

Since four centuries, the estate's visitors praise the charm and attractiveness of Saint-Cloud's gardens

## **Saint-Cloud's domaine national in numbers...**

Surface: 460 hectares; 15ha of lawn; 20ha French formal garden; 6ha English garden; 15 basins; 21.000m<sup>2</sup> water works; 500.000 plants.

Close to one million visitors per year and 25.000 per day.

## **A vanished palace**

In 1577, Catherine de' Medici offers her squire, Jerome de Gondi, an estate of 13 arpents on the hillside, overlooking the Seine.

In the beginning of the 17th century, the home of the Gondi consisted of a residency surrounded by walk-in gardens with caves, waterspouts and waterfalls. Revised by the financier Hervart from 1654 on, the castle was bought in 1658 by Louis XIV for his brother, Philippe, duke of Orleans, called Monsieur.

Between 1670 and 1690 the architects Antoine Le Pautre and Jules-Hardouin Mansart rebuilt and expanded the castle. Inside the castle, the decoration of the Apollo Gallery is the work of the painter Pierre Mignard.

From 1660 to 1700, year of his death, André Le Nôtre carried the design of the park to its perfection and proceeded to a gigantic work, which widened the park's surface close to 400ha. Bought back in 1785 by Marie-Antoinette, who also made some important works, the castle is registered during the French Revolution on the civil list, thus avoiding its destruction. By a decree from the National Convention the castle is to be conserved and taken care of, "at the expense of the Republic, in order to be at the use of the people".

During his coup d'état of the 19th Brumaire, in 1799, Bonaparte wins over the power in Saint-Cloud's castle. Charles X signs the ordinances of 1830 in Saint-Cloud, which caused his decline. The 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1870, Napoleon signs the war declaration against Prussia at the castle of Saint-Cloud.

On the 13 October 1870, while the Prussian troops occupy the castle, it is set on fire and the ruins stay in place for more than twenty years. In 1891, the Third Republic decides to take down these vestiges, because they are too heavily loaded with memories of the Monarchy.

The whole remaining materials were auctioneered in 1892.

The site is listed among the natural protected areas in 1923 and then among the historical monuments on the 9 November 1944. Considered as one of the most beautiful gardens in Europe, in 2005 the estate won the label of remarkable garden.

The Centre des monuments nationaux, a public institution of the Ministry of Culture and Communication, is charged with the emphasizing of the estate and the reception of the publics.

The domaine national of Saint-Cloud is opened to the public and managed by the Centre des monuments nationaux.



# The Centre des monuments nationaux

The Centre des monuments nationaux is a public and state-owned company under the guardianship of the Ministry of Culture and Communication.

The Centre des monuments nationaux conserves, restores, manages, animates and opens to the visit nearly 100 national monuments owned by the state. Among them are very prestigious monuments : The Abbey of Mount Saint Michel, the castles of Anger and Azay-le-Rideau, the castle and battlements of Carcassonne, the Arc of Triumph in Paris, and the Holy Chapel, to quote only a few. Still, others illustrate as well, through their diversity, the prosperity of the French patrimony of all past periods: abbeys, castles, prehistoric caves, archaeological sites...

Le Centre des monuments nationaux's mission is to emphasize this patrimony, to develop its accessibility to as much people as possible and to guarantee its quality of reception. It also promotes, via 200 events per year, the national monuments in the cultural happening and the development of tourism, in consultation with the regional directions of cultural affairs, the territorial community and the network of cultural institutions.

Since 2007 the Centre des monuments nationaux is invested with a new mission of conservation, restoration and maintenance of the monuments it is managing, and with a mission of project management of restoration of works from other monuments owned by the government and affected to the Ministry of Culture and Communication.

The Centre des monuments nationaux also assures a mission of national publishing under the brand of the Editions du patrimoine. It contributes to acquaintance and promotion of the patrimony via the publishing of visitor's guides, prestigious books – photographic or generalisation works --, position papers from architects and the monuments structures, theoretical, technical or scientific texts, books for children, and works for blind, partially sighted, deaf and hearing-impaired persons.

The Centre des monuments nationaux counts 1400 national agents, as well permanently or seasonally employed. For 2008, its yearly budget is of 106,5 million Euros, coming from its own resources (ticket booth, area renting, receipts from stores and national publishing, corporate patronage) and a subvention from the Ministry of Culture and Communication, from which  $\frac{3}{4}$  are intended for maintenance and restoration works in the context of the new attributions to the Centre des monuments nationaux in the domains of project management. It welcomes every year 8.4 millions visitors in the monuments that are confined to the Centre.



# Monuments open to the public

## **Aquitaine**

Grotte des Combarelles  
Abri de Laugerie-Haute  
Abri du Cap-Blanc  
Grotte de Font-de-Gaume  
Site archéologique de Montcaret  
Gisement de La Ferrassie  
Gisement de La Micoque  
Abri du Poisson  
Grotte de Teyjat  
Gisement du Moustier  
Tour Pey-Berland à Bordeaux  
Abbaye de La Sauve-Majeure  
Grotte de Pair-non-Pair  
Château de Cadillac  
Cloître de la cathédrale de Bayonne

## **Auvergne**

Château de Chareil-Cintrat  
Cloître de la cathédrale du Puy-en-Velay  
Château d'Aulteribe  
Château de Villeneuve-Lembron

## **Bourgogne**

Château de Bussy-Rabutin  
Château de Châteauneuf-en-Auxois  
Abbaye de Cluny

## **Bretagne**

Maison d'Ernest Renan à Tréguier  
Cairn de Barnenez  
Sites mégalithiques de Carnac  
Site des mégalithes de Locmariaquer

## **Centre**

Crypte et tour de la cathédrale de Bourges  
Palais Jacques Cœur à Bourges  
Tours et trésor de la cathédrale de Chartres  
Château de Châteaudun  
Château de Bouges  
Maison de George Sand à Nohant  
Château d'Azay-le-Rideau  
Cloître de la Psalette à Tours  
Château de Fougères-sur-Bièvre  
Château de Talcy

## **Champagne-Ardenne**

Château de La Motte Tilly  
Cloître de Notre-Dame-en-Vaux à Châlons-en-Champagne  
Palais du Tau à Reims  
Tours de la cathédrale de Reims

## **Franche-Comté**

Cathédrale de Besançon  
et son horloge astronomique

## **Paris**

Arc de triomphe  
Chapelle expiatoire  
Conciergerie  
Domaine national du Palais-Royal  
Hôtel de Béthune-Sully  
Musée des Plans-Reliefs  
Manufacture des Gobelins  
Panthéon  
Sainte-Chapelle  
Tours de la cathédrale Notre-Dame

## **Ile-de-France**

Château de Champs-sur-Marne  
Château de Maisons  
Villa Savoye à Poissy  
Château de Rambouillet  
Laiterie de la Reine et chaumière des coquillages à Rambouillet  
Domaine national de Saint-Cloud  
Maison des Jardies à Sèvres  
Basilique cathédrale de Saint-Denis  
Château de Vincennes

## **Languedoc-Roussillon**

Château et remparts de la cité de Carcassonne  
Tours et remparts d'Aigues-Mortes  
Chartreuse de Villeneuve-lez-Avignon  
Fort Saint-André de Villeneuve-lez-Avignon  
Site archéologique d'Ensérune  
Forteresse de Salses

## **Midi-Pyrénées**

Site archéologique de La Graufesenque  
Site archéologique de Montmaurin  
Chapelle des carmélites à Toulouse  
Château d'Assier  
Château de Castelnaud-Bretenoux  
Château de Montal  
Abbaye de Beaulieu-en-Rouergue  
Château de Gramont  
Maison du maréchal Foch à Tarbes

## **Nord-Pas-de-Calais**

Colonne de la Grande Armée à Wimille

## **Basse-Normandie**

Château de Carrouges  
Abbaye du Mont-Saint-Michel

## **Haute-Normandie**

Abbaye du Bec-Hellouin

## **Pays-de-la-Loire**

Château d'Angers  
Abbaye royale de Fontevraud  
Maison de Georges Clemenceau à Saint-Vincent-sur-Jard

## **Picardie**

Château de Coucy  
Galerie nationale de la tapisserie à Beauvais  
Château de Pierrefonds  
Tours de la cathédrale d'Amiens

## **Poitou-Charentes**

Tour de la Lanterne, tour Saint-Nicolas et tour de la Chaîne à La Rochelle  
Château d'Oiron  
Abbaye de Charroux  
Sanctuaire gallo-romain de Sanxay

## **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

Place forte de Mont-Dauphin  
Trophée d'Auguste à La Turbie  
Site archéologique de Glanum  
Château d'If  
Abbaye de Silvacane  
Abbaye de Montmajour  
Monastère de Saorge  
Château du roi René à Tarascon  
Cloître de la cathédrale de Fréjus  
Abbaye du Thoronet  
Site archéologique d'Olbia

## **Rhône-Alpes**

Château de Voltaire à Ferney  
Monastère royal de Brou à Bourg-en-Bresse  
Trésor de la cathédrale de Lyon