

ariana



musée suisse
de la céramique
et du verre
genève

schweizerisches
museum für
keramik und glas
genf

swiss museum
for ceramics
and glass
geneva

Gustave Revilliod (1817-1890) A Man Open to the World Musée Ariana, 2 November 2018 - 2 June 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, 30 October 2018

With its all-new exhibition, *Gustave Revilliod (1817-1890), A Man Open to the World*, the Musée Ariana, the Swiss Museum for Ceramics and Glass, pays homage to this remarkable man. A discerning collector, tireless traveller, man of letters and enlightened philanthropist, Gustave Revilliod built up an astonishing collection of artworks, objects and books. He commissioned a sumptuous Italianate building to house them, which he named Ariana in memory of his mother and opened for all to enjoy. On his death in Cairo, this great patron's museum and its collections were left to the City of Geneva, as well as the immense Varembé estate which surrounded it.

The exhibition, *Gustave Revilliod (1817-1890), A Man Open to the World*, evokes the 19th century museum by reuniting astonishing works now divided among Geneva's public museums and libraries. With its paintings, sculptures, timepieces, jewellery, weapons, medals, furniture, ceramics, glass, stained glass and curiosities brought back from his round-the-world trip, not forgetting an imposing library, the collection of over 30,000 pieces assembled by Gustave Revilliod is impressive. It spans periods, continents and techniques.

With a modern exhibition design and loans from museums and libraries holding the Revilliod collections, the aim is to showcase the incredible richness of this heritage and its importance for Geneva. The presentation conjures up the profusion and extravagance of the world's fairs, the fascination with the East, European art and Revilliod's patriotic attachment to Geneva and Switzerland. The juxtaposition of works of all techniques and periods, often unknown to the general public, proves captivating; an evocation of the man himself, an inquiring and engaging humanist and scholar, is not forgotten.

A publication of over 480 pages, with articles by 32 researchers, specialists and curators of the different collections, as well as a series of events (thematic visits, a life-size game and a seminar on Revilliod's legacy) all complement this exceptional programme.

Partner institutions: Musée d'art et d'histoire, Musée d'ethnographie de Genève, Bibliothèque de Genève, Conservatory and Botanical Garden, Muséum d'histoire naturelle and the University of Geneva.

Press visit: Tuesday, 30 October at 11 am

Exhibition preview: Thursday, 1 November at 7 pm

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