Press Kit
February 2017

Speaking plates
Printed narrative scenes on
19th century creamware

Musée Ariana, 10 February 2017 - 21 January 2018
Exhibition extended until September 9, 2018

Press visit: Thursday 9 February at 11.00
Opening: Thursday 9 February at 19.00

10, avenue de la Paix
1202 Genève

The Press Kit can be downloaded from our website: www.ariana-geneve.ch
**Speaking plates**

Printed narrative scenes on 19th century creamware

**Musée Ariana, 10 February 2017 - 21 January 2018**

Exhibition extended until September 9, 2018

*Geneva, February 2017 –* A real fashion phenomenon in the 19th century, so-called “speaking” creamware plates feature a narrative scene and caption. The themes are extremely diverse: military life, hunting, monuments or French urban and rural social customs. Fables, rebuses, proverbs and popular songs are likewise represented or recorded on these often satirical or caricatural pieces. The wells of the plates can be decorated with solemn vignettes depicting the glory of France - military exploits or patriotic exaltation – and with humorous, less flattering scenes in which men, women, bourgeois society, peasants or foreigners are mocked. No one is spared!

The pottery works created sets of narrative plates (usually twelve) on a given theme. Their appearance results from the development of two new techniques in the mid-18th century: creamware and printing on ceramics, which would both expand on an industrial scale.

The Musée Ariana has numerous examples of this type of ware in its collections – mainly from France and Western Switzerland – including some complete sets, like the one relating the transfer of Napoleon's remains from Saint Helena to the Invalides in 1840, or another making fun of visitors to the 1889 Exposition universelle (World Exhibition) in Paris. A mass propaganda medium, these printed narrative plates convey political, religious or educational messages.

These 19th century "comic strips" are informative illustrated testimonies of the society of the day. The Speaking Plates still show no signs of keeping quiet!

A richly documented gallery leaflet accompanies this exhibition, and is also available on our website.

Ana Quintero Pérez, Exhibition Curator
Speaking plates
Printed narrative scenes on 19th century creamware

Musée Ariana, 10 February 2017 - 21 January 2018
Exhibition extended until September 9, 2018

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Musée Ariana
Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre
Avenue de la Paix 10 | 1202 Geneva
T +41(0)22 418 54 50 - F +41(0)22 418 54 51
www.ariana-geneve.ch

Open Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 – 18.00, closed Mondays
Free admission

Exhibition opening: Thursday 9 February at 19.00
Press conference: Thursday 9 February at 11.00
Or visit on request: presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch

Exhibition organisation:
Isabelle Naef Galuba, Director of the Musée Ariana

Exhibition curated by:
Ana Quintero Pérez, Research Assistant

Visitor Services:
Hélène de Ryckel, Head of Visitor Services
adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch

Press Service:
Christine Azconegui Suter, Head of Communication
T +41(0)22 418 54 55
presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch
Events

Guided tours
On Sundays
5 March at 15.00, 4 June at 11.00, 3 September at 15.00, 26 November at 11.00

Guided tours for teachers
Wednesday 8 March from 14.00 to 16.00

Workshop
"Raconte-moi une histoire!" “Tell me a story!”
Swiss potteries from the 17th to the 19th centuries and 19th century creamware all tell countless stories through their rich decorations and inscriptions.
In this workshop led by Charlotte Nordin, everyone will be able to create a ceramic piece decorated with their own narrative or speaking design.
Registration fee. Please pre-book as spaces are limited.

Families: Sunday 18 June 14:00 – 17:00
Adult rate: 40 CHF, Child rate: 20 CHF (from 6 years old)

Adults: Saturday 24 June 10:00 – 17:00
Cost: 70 CHF per person

Guided tours on request (in French only)
Guided tours for classes, please place request 15 days before the chosen date
Free for schools within the Canton of Geneva
Full rate 150 CHF
Special rate of 75 CHF for institutions with a social mission subsidized by the City of Geneva
For groups of up to 15 people
Please pre-book 15 days before the required date (with or without a guide)

Visitor Services
Monday-Friday
T +41 22 418 54 50 / 54
F + 41 22 418 54 51
adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch

Musée Ariana
Avenue de la Paix 10
1202 Genève
T+ 41 22 418 54 50
ariana@ville-ge.ch

Un musée
Ville de Genève
www.ariana-geneve.ch
Speaking plates
Printed narrative scenes on 19th century creamware
Musée Ariana, 10 February 2017 - 21 January 2018
Exhibition extended until September 9, 2018

PRESS VISUALS

01 Plate “Napoléon”, 1850-1860
Sarreguemines (France)
creamware, black printed underglaze decoration
Gift of Ariane Maillard-Correvon, 2012
Inv. AR 2012-89-3
Collection of the Musée Ariana
“Before 3 months are out I’ll break your monarchy as I break this porcelain (1797)”

02 Rebus plate, 1836-1863
Choisy-le-Roi (France)
creamware, relief moulded and black printed decoration, blue underglaze bands
Gift of Béatrice et Gilles Barbey-Feer, 2012
Inv. AR 2013-75
Collection of the Musée Ariana
“It’s not difficult to trick a trickster”
Plate “My Regiment”, 1896-1920
Utzschneider & Cie, Sarreguemines (France)  
creamware, printed polychrome underglaze  
decoration  
Gift of Nicolas Lieber, 2016

Inv. AR 2016-93
Collection of the Musée Ariana

“Heads up! Eyes on the cap of the man in front of you!”

Plate “At the World Fair”, 1889
Keller & Guérin, Lunéville (France)  
creamware, brown printed decoration with polychrome  
derglaze enamels; gold band around rim  
Gift of Madeleine Ducret, 2010

Inv. AR 2010-6-11
Collection of the Musée Ariana

“Rascal! Should’ve said your barrows were only for light women!”
Plate “Our Servants”, 1884-1920
Creil et Montereau (France)
creamware, black printed underglaze decoration
Gift of Jacqueline Berenstein-Wavre, 2013
Inv. AR 2014-114-3
Collection of the Musée Ariana

“7F50 for this chicken! What price do you want me to tell my minx of a mistress?”

Plate “Signs of the Times”, 1860-1925
Utzschneider & Cie, Sarreguemines (France)
creamware, mauve underglaze printed decoration
Gift of Jacqueline Berenstein-Wavre, 2013
Inv. AR 2014-116-5
Collection of the Musée Ariana

“Thaw”
Plate “View of Paris”, 1824-1836
Choisy-le-Roi (France)
creamware, black printed and painted underglaze
decoration
Gift of Liliane Beyda, 2015

Inv. AR 2015-16-3

Collection of the Musée Ariana

“View of the large greenhouse at the Botanical
Gardens in Paris”

NOTE TO JOURNALISTS

The Musée Ariana Press Service is pleased to inform you that images can be downloaded from our website and are royalty free for the duration of the exhibition.

Image requests can be sent to ariana@ville-ge.ch or made by phone on +41 (0)22 418 54 55.

Any reproduction must be accompanied by the following mentions: name of museum, author(s), title of work and photographer’s name. Other details (dimensions, techniques, date, etc.) are desirable but not compulsory. These elements can be found in the press pack downloadable from our website www.ariana-geneve.ch.

Please send a copy of your publication to the Musée Ariana Press Service

With thanks,

Musée Ariana- Press Service – 10 avenue de la Paix - 1202 Geneva – presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch