

Press Kit

February 2017

# Speaking plates

Printed narrative scenes on  
19<sup>th</sup> 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

**ariana**



musée  
suisse  
de la céramique  
et  
du verre

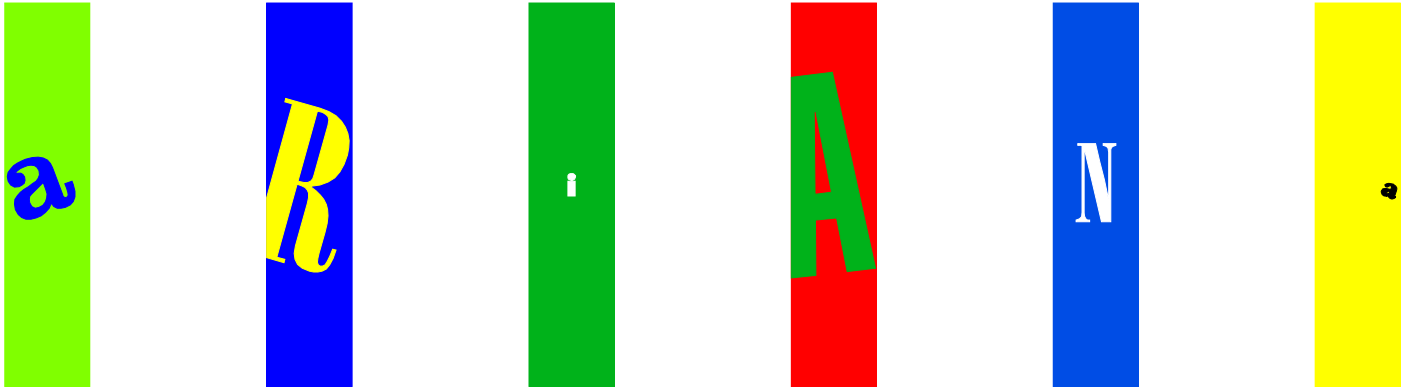
10, avenue de la Paix

1202 Genève

The Press Kit can be downloaded from our website: [www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch)

Un musée  
Ville de Genève  
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*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

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch)

### Press Service:

Christine Azconegui Suter, Head of Communication

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### 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 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and 19<sup>th</sup> 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

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## 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”



03 **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!”



04 **Plate “At the World Fair”**, 1889  
Keller & Guérin, Lunéville (France)  
creamware, brown printed decoration with polychrome  
underglaze 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!”



05 **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?”



06 **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”



07 **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

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With thanks,

Musée Ariana- Press Service – 10 avenue de la Paix - 1202 Geneva – [presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch)