

MEDIA RELEASE
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TINA ARENA TELLS THE WORLD ABOUT *VERSAILLES: TREASURES FROM THE PALACE* AT THE NGA

The National Gallery of Australia has announced international award-winning performer Tina Arena as the official Ambassador for the opulent *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace* exhibition, opening in Canberra on 9 December.

Tina Arena has charted at #1 in both Australia and France, and has gained recognition for her lifelong contribution to the arts. She was recently inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame and received an Order of Australia Medal, as well as being the first Australian to receive a French Knighthood of the Order of Merit.

‘There is so much excitement around this unique exhibition,’ said Ms Arena. ‘I am honoured to be telling the world about this historic show.’

The exhibition brings more than 130 paintings, sculptures, furniture and precious objects from the Palace of Versailles to Australia. This is the first time a dedicated exhibition drawn from the collection of Versailles, detailing the reigns of Louis XIV, XV and XVI, has been seen outside France.

‘It’s fantastic to think that all Australians will have the chance to experience the history, music, gardens and art of Versailles in Canberra,’ said Ms Arena. ‘Our two countries have a special bond—something I am very proud to represent.’

Versailles: Treasures from the Palace brings personal possessions of Queen Marie-Antoinette such as furniture from her bedchamber and delicate porcelain, as well as candelabra from the Hall of Mirrors, and the magnificent centrepiece from the Palace fountain—the 1.5 tonne statue of *Latona and her children*—among many other intricate artworks from the 17–18th century French court.

‘Having spent the past fifteen years in Europe, and much of that in Paris, I have experienced some of the world’s greatest art and architecture,’ said Ms Arena. ‘To have that depth of art history transposed into the National Gallery of Australia is incredible. I encourage all Australians to see this once-in-a-lifetime event.’

‘Tina Arena brings to the Versailles project exceptional experience and enthusiasm for anything French and Australian,’ said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director. ‘Her international accomplishments in artistry and culture make her the perfect ambassador and we are delighted she is going to be here in Canberra for the opening celebrations.’

Versailles: Treasures from the Palace opens 9 December until 17 April 2017. Tickets are on sale now through Ticketek.

Social media:

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<http://nga.gov.au/AboutUs/MediaCentre/Versailles/Default.cfm>

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