

Carlo Antonio RAINERI

(MILAN 1765 – MILAN 1826)

SET OF FIVE PAINTED CANVASSES



OIL ON CANVAS

LOMBARDY REGION, ITALY

LATE 18TH CENTURY

DIMENSIONS :

CANVAS WITH A PALM AND AN OWL : H. 246 CM – W. 288 CM – (96^{13/16} X 113^{3/8} IN)

CANVAS WITH PARROTS : H. 246 CM – W. 173 CM – (96^{13/16} X 68^{1/16} IN)

CANVAS WITH A PEACOCK : H. 246 CM – W. 167 CM – (96^{13/16} X 65^{1/16} IN)

PAIR OF SIDE CANVASSES : H. 246 CM – W. 44,5 CM ONE AND W. 46,5 CM THE OTHER

(96^{13/16} X 17^{1/2} AND 18^{1/4} IN)

WE JOIN TWO MORE CANVASSES OF A POSTERIOR PERIOD

27, Quai Voltaire, 75007 Paris

These extraordinary large painted canvases of various widths have been designed to decorate an entire room by being placed into wood frames transforming a living or a dining room into a aviary. The background is painted in blue shades imitating the sky. This quite neutral background emphasizes the rich diversity of birds, animals, insects and plants in the foreground.

The accuracy of the naturalistic representation of animals and birds is as impressive as the diversity of the species it offers. We may find classic species such as : a guinea fowl, a marten, a macaw, a dove, a bullfinch, a badger, an ermine; but also exotic species: a white Ibis from Egypt, a pink spatula from Cayenne, a Kakatoes from the Moluccas, a Chinese parrot, a Cayenne toucan, a parrot from the island of Luzon or even fantastic birds that have come out of the imagination of the author.

The characteristic of Carlo Antonio Raineri, the author of these paintings, is the coexistence of scientific precision with the free and even fantastic interpretation of his subjects. His charming compositions also reflect the fashion of the 18th century for *chinoiserie* wallpaper patterns.



Carlo Antonio took his ideas from the prints published by the Comte de Buffon in his *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux* from 1770-1786. Among the well-known works of artist Raineri, we recognize certain recurring motifs.



Detail of the spatula from Cayenne Canvas with parrots



Detail – Set of azure canvasses, circa 1790, Private collection, Milan



Detail – Set of small canvasses, circa 1790, Private collection, Milan



Detail of an owl Canvas with the palm tree



Detail – Cavasses from villa Reale di Monza, circa 1790



Detail – Set of canvasses on hunting, 1792, Private collection, Milan



Detail of a Kakatoes from the Moluccas Canvas with parrots

Detail – Cavasses from villa Reale di Monza, circa 1790

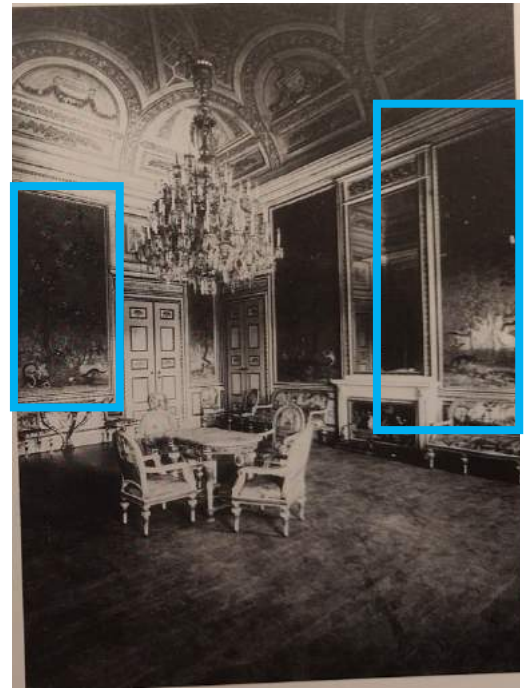


Carlo Antonio RAINERi

Specializing in decorative paintings of birds, plants and butterflies, Carlo Antonio Raineri has decorated many villas and residences in Lombardy, including the Villa Reale di Monza and the palazzi Perego and Anguissola in Milan.

The royal villa of Monza is a historic neoclassical palace located in Monza in Lombardy, built between 1777 and 1780 on the order of the Empress Maria Teresa of Austria who entrusted the country house to the architect Giuseppe Piermarini for his son Ferdinando, the Archduke of Milan.

Carlo Antonio Raineri executed the paintings for the "Chinese Room" (photo opposite). When the owners changed at the end of the 19th century, the canvases disappeared.



The Perego palace was built in the first half of the 18th century on the orders of Canon Giovanni Perego (1688 - 1773), apostolic *protonotaro* of the Basilica of San Nazaro in Milan, humanist and great lover of art. The panels of Carlo Antonio Raineri were destroyed during the Second World War but we still have photographs (opposite) of the time and mentions in the invoices of "canvas panels representing trees, various types of birds, butterflies and other insects".

