## CLASSIC BEAUTIES



I	II	III	IV	<b>r</b>
Cathelijne Broers	Mikhail Piotrovsky	Sergej Androsov	Tatyana Bushmina	
Foreword: Noble Simplicity and Youthful Grace 12	Foreword: Journey into Classicism	Neoclassicism at the End of the 14 Eighteenth Century	20 Pompeo Batoni	36
	TAB	LE OF CONTENTS		
The Visit to the Dutch 114 Republic by the Count and Countess of the North	Revelling in the Beauties of the South	122 Angelica Kauffmann	140 Antonio Canova	150
Bernard Woelderink	Thera Coppens	Maria Garlova	Sergej Androsov	
$\mathbf{IX}$	$\mathbf{X}$	$\mathbf{XI}$	XI	I

Maria Garlova Sergej Androsov Ekaterina Deryabina Eric Moormann The Count and Countess The Quest for of the North: A Journey Ideal Beauty **Hubert Robert** through Europe Anton Raphael Mengs 50 62 76 TABLE OF CONTENTS Catalogue 168 Bibliography 200 204 Glossary Catalogue notes and literature All works in the exhibition List of names and terms

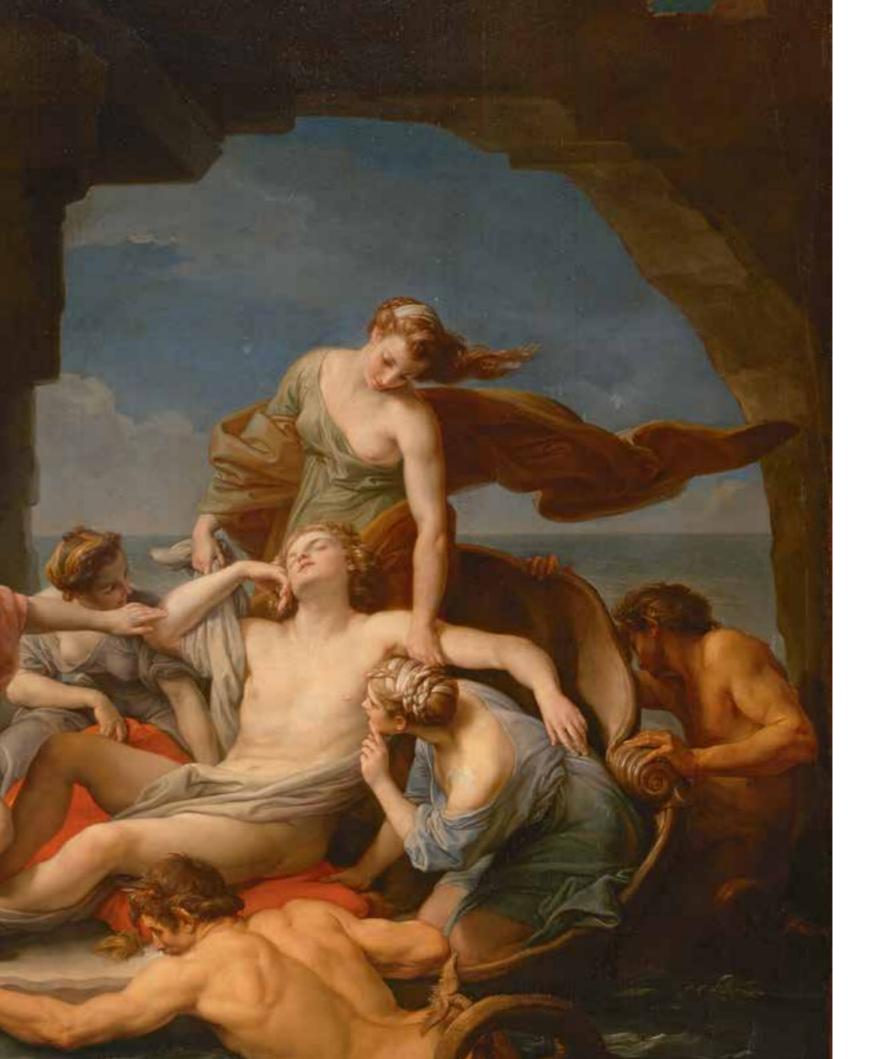


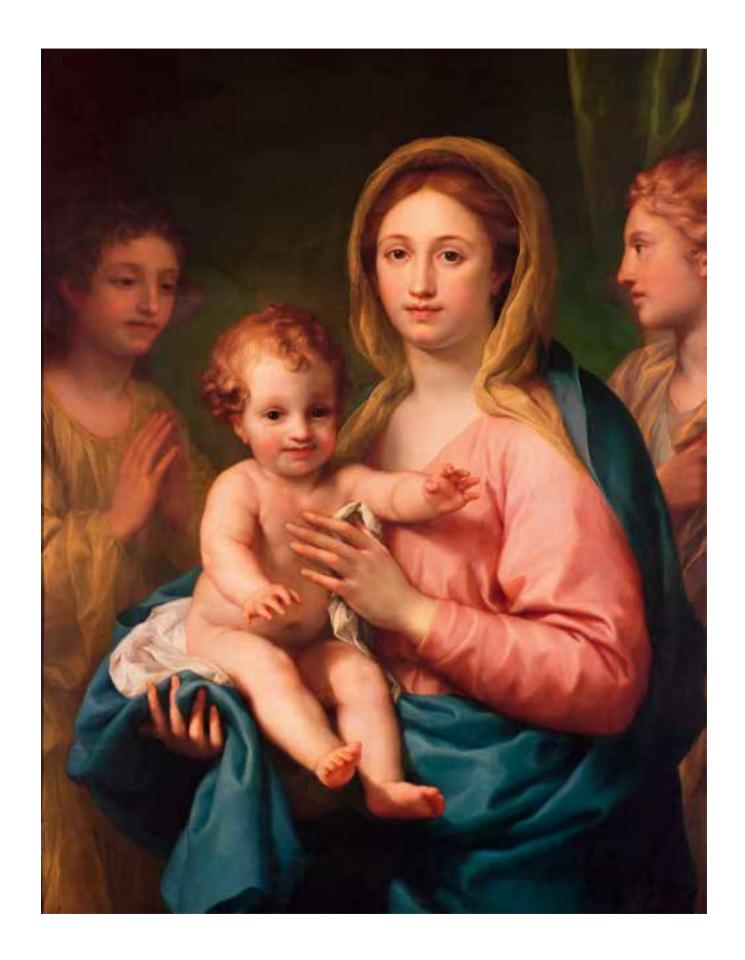
Grigory Mikhaylov, The Ancient Gallery in the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts, St Petersburg. 1836 State Russian Museum, St Petersburg





Pompeo Batoni, Thetis going to the Centaur Chiron to retrieve Achilles. 1768–70. Hermitage, St Petersburg

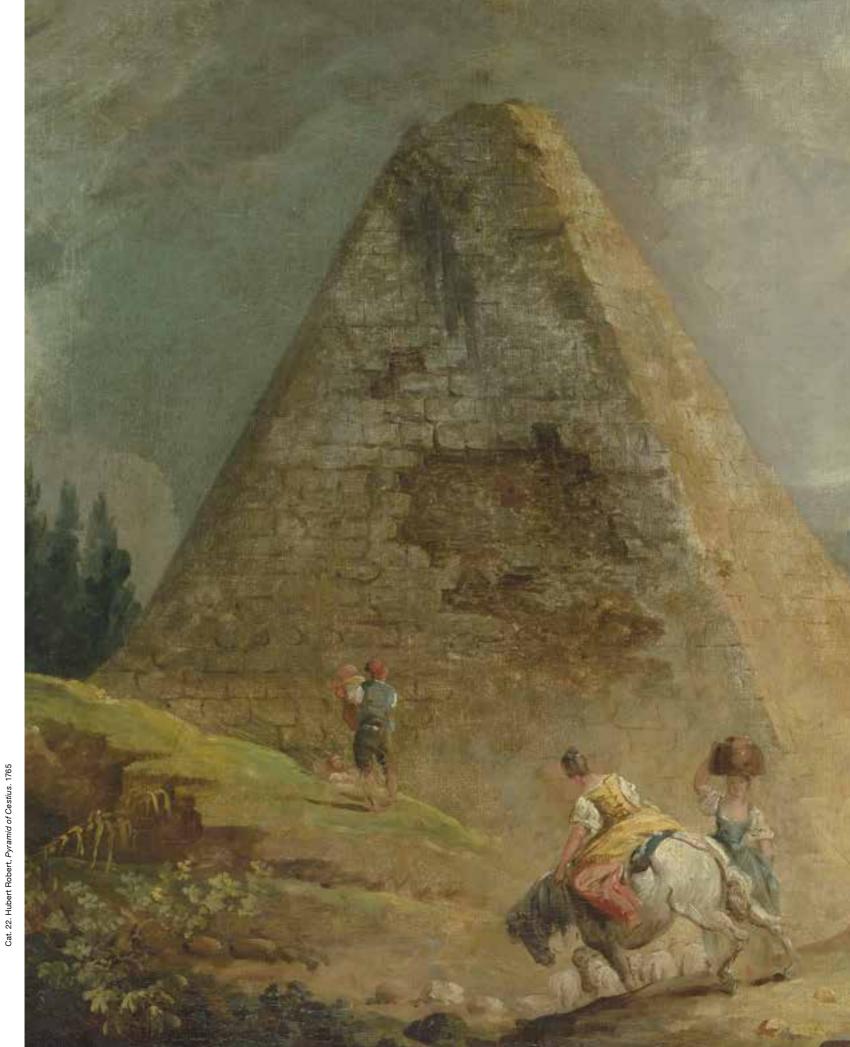


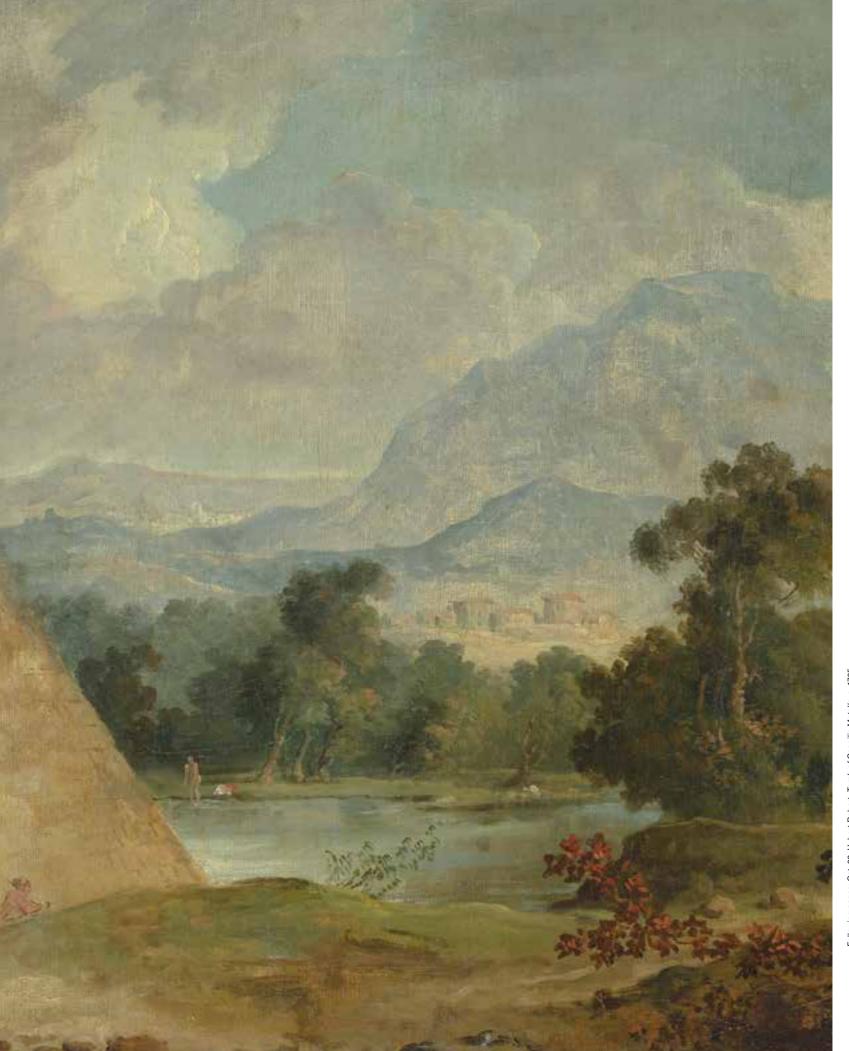


Anton Raphael Mengs, Madonna with Child and two Angels. 1770–73 Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna



Cat. 15. Anton Raphael Mengs, Perseus and Andromeda. 1778

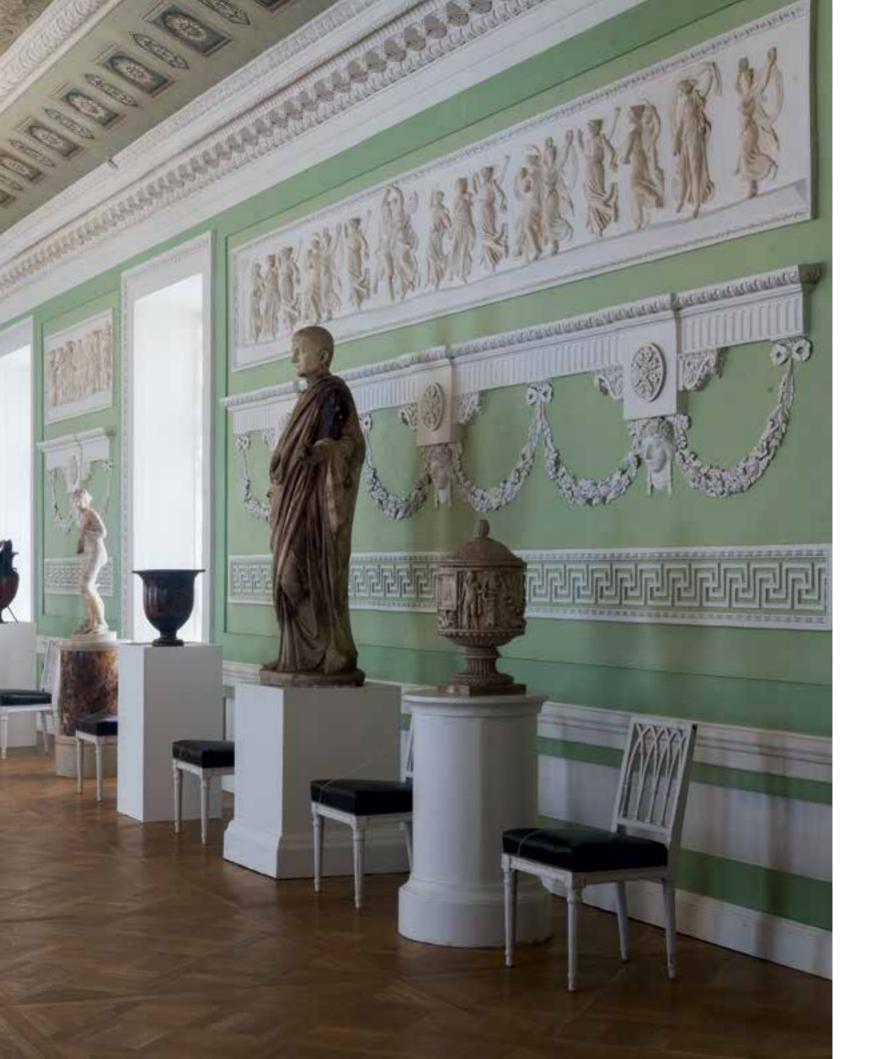




Following pages: Cat. 23. Hubert Robert, Tomb of Caecilia Metella. c. 1765



Knights Hall, Pavlovsk Palace





Cat. 42. Antonio Canova, The Three Graces. 1812-16





Cat. 49, 50. Johann Friedrich August Tischbein, Portraits of Grand Duke Paul and Grand Duchess Maria Fyodorovna of Russia. 1782. Private collection







## CLASSIC BEAUTIES

Around the middle of the eighteenth century, Europe was enthralled by the archaeological excavations then taking place in Italy. Artists and young aristocrats from across the continent travelled there to see the country's classical Roman and trendsetting contemporary art for themselves. The 'Grand Tour' often lasted many months. Among those who made it were Goethe and the 'Count and Countess of the North' (the later Russian Tsar Paul I and his wife). In Rome, they met renowned artists like Pompeo Batoni, Anton Raphael Mengs, Hubert Robert, Angelica Kauffmann and — most famous of all — Antonio Canova. In short, all the great names of eighteenth-century Neoclassicism.

Classic Beauties allows readers to share the adventures of the 'Grand Tourists' and meet the leading Neoclassical artists of the day. Their accounts and the book's many illustrations, both of works of art and of contemporary tourist attractions, paint a vivid picture of a period in which the quest for classical beauty and the ideal nude was at the forefront of people's minds.



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