



The Gallery of Meissen Animals: Augustus the Strong's Menagerie for the Japanese Palace in Dresden

Samuel Wittwer

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The large animal figures created at the Meissen manufactory between 1731 and 1736 arguably constitute the eighteenth century's supreme artistic and technical achievement in the field of porcelain-making. The animals were commissioned by the elector-king Augustus the Strong for the palace that of all his seats was probably the one closest to his heart: the Japanese Palace in Dresden.

Samuel Wittwer's research has revealed a profusion of inter-relations between this fragile porcelain menagerie and the various other animal collections at the Dresden court. This book does not consider the animal figures in art historical terms alone. On the contrary, it presents them in their historical and topographical context and traces the manifold relations between the figures and the world in which they came into being. In so doing it also offers the reader a wealth of insights into the relationships between art, society, and politics at the Dresden court in the second quarter of the eighteenth century.

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