



# 2017 NGV ANNUAL APPEAL



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# NGV

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This year's Annual Appeal is dedicated to a leading female artist of her time, Louise Bouteiller. It is one of five key works chosen as part of a current campaign to strengthen the Gallery's representation of female artists. This will be the first work by Bouteiller to enter the NGV Collection.

*Portrait of Césarine de Houdetot, Baronne de Barante: Les Pamplemousses*, painted in 1818, is a beautifully detailed depiction of a young woman set among banana palms and bamboo huts in a European fantasy of the Southern Hemisphere. In this regard it is a subject that is of great historical interest for an Australian collection.

Bouteiller's work is featured in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the British Museum in London, among others. The NGV has only one painting by a female artist from the French School and a major Neoclassical full-length portrait has long been desired. Neoclassicism has traditionally been held to be the preserve of male artists, such as Jacques-Louis David, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres and Baron François-Pascal-Simon Gérard. To have this period represented by a female painter will be both corrective and revelatory.

Thank you for considering supporting our Annual Appeal. We are grateful for donations of any amount to help make this acquisition possible.

**Tony Ellwood** Director, National Gallery of Victoria

## 'BOUTEILLER'S ACCOMPLISHED PORTRAITS WERE TREASURED IN FRENCH MONARCHY CIRCLES AND ALMOST NEVER COME TO THE MARKET.'

DR TED GOTT, SENIOR CURATOR, INTERNATIONAL ART,  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

### Louise Bouteiller

French 1783–1828

*Portrait of Césarine de Houdetot, Baronne*

*de Barante: Les Pamplemousses* 1818

oil on canvas

193.5 x 143 cm

Proposed acquisition

## LOUISE BOUTEILLER

Born to a wealthy French plantation owner in Haiti and trained in Paris, Louise Bouteiller (1783–1828) was one of a generation of talented female artists who benefited from strides made in the education of girls during the revolutionary and Napoleonic eras. Bouteiller received training from the painter Pierre Bouillon, a pupil of the great Neoclassical master, Jacques-Louis David.

In recognition of her talent, in 1824 Bouteiller was appointed Director of Painting and Drawing at the Maison d'éducation de Saint-Denis, founded for the daughters of officers decorated with the Légion d'Honneur and first run by the famous female educator Madame Campan.



Significant in its scale, this sumptuous portrait depicts a young aristocrat, Césarine de Houdetot, Baronne de Barante les Pamplemousses (1794–1877) and was commissioned by the sitter's husband, the historian and writer Prosper de Barante.

Like Bouteiller, Césarine had spent her early years in the tropics, raised until the age of four in the French colony of Mauritius, where her grandfather was a director of the Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses.

Césarine was also an accomplished portrait artist herself, making this sublime painting the portrait of one female artist by another female artist.

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