

# Reggia! Everybody is free



 La Venaria Reale



RESIDENZE  
REALI  
SABAUDE

**Play** *A year  
of amusement*



*REGGIA! EVERYBODY IS FREE*

## **PLAY: A YEAR OF AMUSEMENT**

### **THE 2022 PROGRAMME OF VENARIA REALE**

***2022 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Reggia di Venaria and 25 years since UNESCO's listing of the Royal Savoy Residences among the World Heritage Sites. The Reggia celebrates the event with the revival of the Water Theatre of the Fountain of Hercules and by dedicating the annual programme to the theme of "play".***

Throughout 2022, Reggia di Venaria and the other Savoy Royal Residences of Piedmont will celebrate two important milestones.

**La Venaria Reale** commemorates the **15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening to the public** after a colossal restoration work, the only one of its kind in Europe, which involved the entire estate from the late nineties to 2007.

This year also marks the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the listing by UNESCO of the Savoy Royal Residences of Piedmont among the "World Heritage Sites"**, which took place in 1997.

This double anniversary will be celebrated with a **great event on 21 June**, the first day of summer: the **inauguration of the Water Theatre of the Fountain of Hercules**, a grandiose seventeenth-century architectural complex inside the Gardens of the Reggia, which has been completely restored before opening to the public. A great celebration with water shows and circus performances **will mark the full rebirth of Venaria.**

The exhibitions and cultural activities of 2022 revolve around the **theme of play**, not only for the historical references contained inside the Reggia – the place of leisure, entertainment and playful moments of the sovereigns par excellence – but also with a view to focusing on the present time and everyone's desire to treat themselves to moments of lightheartedness.

Play, in its many forms, is the **leitmotif of the cultural programme** that offers a calendar of activities dedicated to this theme. The entire Venaria Reale estate is immersed in a playful atmosphere, including the Reggia, the Gardens, the city of Venaria Reale with its Old Town, the nearby Park of La Mandria and the castle with the same name.

One of the enhancements is the **reopening of the basement floor of the Reggia** on 8 April with the reorganisation of the tour of the ***Theatre of History and Magnificence***, improved with the addition of video installations illustrating the network of the Savoy Royal Residences of Piedmont.

## **PLAY: THE EXHIBITIONS**

### ***FROM SQUARES TO COURTS***

#### ***STORIES OF GAMES AND SHOWS BETWEEN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES***

*From 9 April to 18 September 2022*

Curated by Silvia Ghisotti and Andrea Merlotti

Directed and narrated by Arturo Brachetti

Staging by Peter Bottazzi

***From squares to courts, stories of games and shows between the 18th and 19th centuries*** presents significant **representations of games and shows held in the courts, theatres and squares** of Turin – the Savoy capital – and the provincial cities. **rare iconographic evidence from the 18th and 19th centuries**, including paintings from Royal Savoy Residences and exceptional posters from the Incisa archive of the Library of the Asti Bishop's Seminary.

### ***PICTURES AT PLAY!***

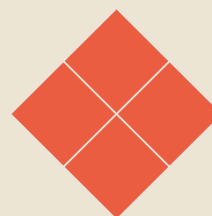
#### ***A TALE BY 18 ITALIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS***

*From 9 April to 18 September 2022*

Curated by Giangavino Pazzola

Organised in collaboration with Camera - Italian Centre for Photography in Turin

Staging by Peter Bottazzi



***Pictures at play! A tale by 18 Italian photographers*** illustrates the **games held in town squares and outdoor entertainment** as seen through the lens of **18 famous Italian photographers** who have documented **the evolution of the many forms of playing and having fun** from the post-war era to the rise of the modern entertainment industry.

## **PLAY**

### **VIDEOGAME, ART AND MORE**

*From 22 July 2022 to 15 January 2023*

Curated by Guido Certo and Fabio Viola

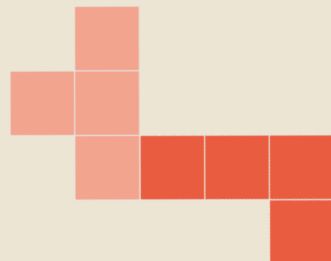
Staging by Officina delle Idee, Torino

The first major exhibition to **consider video games as the “tenth form of art”** practised by 3 billion people around the world, acknowledging the **profound impact they have on contemporary society**. The **digital canvases of the great masters of video games** seem to **interact with famous artists** from the past and the present, inviting us to reflect on the new forms of aesthetics, culture, language, politics and economy in the 21st century.

## **PLAY: THE EVENTS**

Starting in spring and continuing throughout the summer, the **events** organised by Venaria Reale revolving **around the theme of play** will let visitors participate in the series of **Game Sundays** – beginning on 17 April – as well as in other key moments and reviews taking place in the Gardens such as the **Street Magic World Championship** from 2 to 6 June, a meeting on 9 June with **Stefano Bartezzaghi** on the meaning of the word “*play*”, the popular **Summer Nights at the Reggia** (in collaboration with the *Piemonte dal Vivo* foundation) from 22 July to 13 August and the 2022 **Corollaria** exhibition from 13 to 18 September.

The project ***Reggia! Everybody is free*** will present from 10 September to 15 October series of story readings and playful lessons by writer **Giuseppe Culicchia**. The series consists of six events during which well-known Italian writers will talk about playful books and their authors while inviting everybody to (re)read the great classics of literature.



## **OTHER SCHEDULED EXHIBITIONS AND INITIATIVES**

In addition to the exhibitions specifically focused on the theme of *Play*, a **major exhibition** dedicated to the painter **John Constable**, one of the greatest landscape painters of Romanticism, will be held in autumn thanks to the collaboration with the Tate Gallery in London. This **prestigious and unmissable event is preceded by other exhibitions**: from 31 May to 8 January 2023, the sculptures of **Tony Cragg**, one of the most famous contemporary sculptors, will be on display at Venaria Reale, while from 25 June to 11 September, the Reggia will host an exhibition organised by **La Milaneseiana**.

Among the initiatives scheduled on other themes, it is worth mentioning on 28 May the event dedicated to yoga and wellness ***Wanderlust Sunset***, on 11 and 12 June the ***Competition of Traditional Combined Driving***, on 1 and 2 July the **International Dog Show**, on 15 October the return of the ***Grand Ball of Venaria Reale***, along with a series of sporting events taking place in autumn such as the **European Cross Country Championships** and on 16 October the ***Corsa da Re*** race which will be held in the Gardens of the Reggia and the park of La Mandria. Finally, during the Christmas holidays, the **Christmas Evenings at the Reggia** will come back from 26 December to 8 January 2023.

In addition, the Study and Research Centre and Educational Services of Venaria will organise numerous **Conferences, Conversations and Educational Activities**, while several events scheduled throughout the year will be held in collaboration with the **City of Venaria Reale**, in particular, in the Old Town.

For more information, please visit **[lavenaria.it](http://lavenaria.it)**

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