

Language through Art: An ESL Enrichment Curriculum (Beginning) Information for Teaching

Paneled Room

Unknown artist
French, Paris, about 1755
Painted and gilded oak; four oil-on-canvas
overdoor paintings; *brèche d'Alep*
mantelpiece; modern mirror glass
14 ft. 4 in. x 23 ft. 6 1/2 in. x 25 ft. 6 in.
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Background Information

The paneling for this room was made around 1755 for an as-yet-unidentified Parisian *hôtel* (mansion). It is a good example of the decoration of a *grand salon* in a fashionable town house of the time. This room would have formed part of a suite of rooms, known in French as an *appartement*, where the doors face each other on opposite walls, designed to draw the visitor from one room to the next.

Elaborately paneled rooms were not intended for hanging paintings. In this room, only the overdoors are set with painted canvases (visible in the reflections in the mirrors), which contain scenes of incense burners and garlands of flowers with separate carved frames. Cast trophies of musical instruments decorate the four corners of the plaster cornice, and scenes of female musicians adorn the centers. The ceiling and floor are reproductions of the originals.

The room is furnished with decorative arts objects from roughly the same period, including a pair of globes, a writing table, a folding screen, a suite of armchairs and side chairs, and a console table.