



Aerial view of the "French garden"



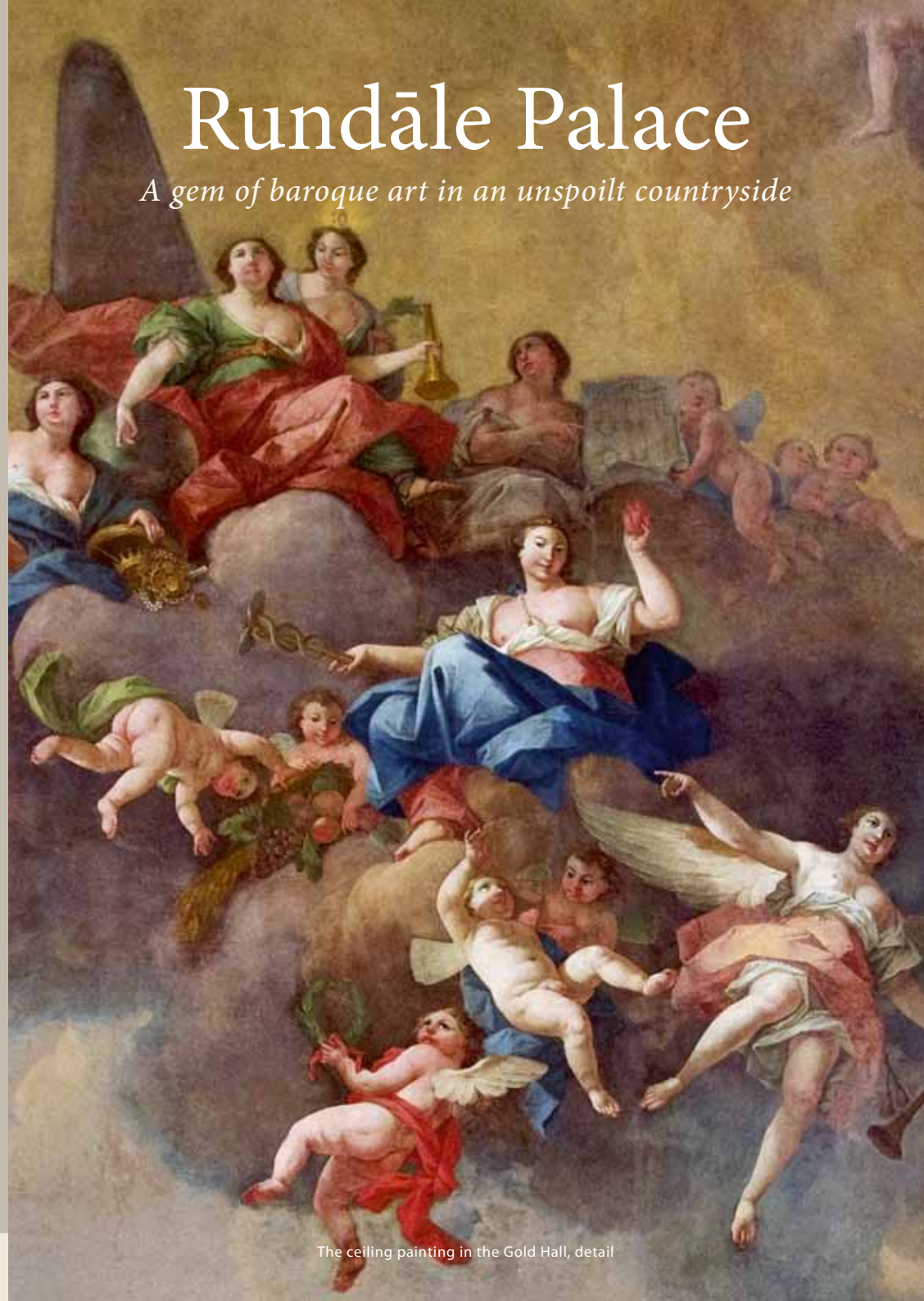
The Museum is open seven days a week  
 May to October 10.00 – 18.00  
 November to April 10.00 – 17.00

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The Gold Hall and the White Hall at Rundāle Palace are available for concerts, receptions and wedding ceremonies with the "first waltz" in the White Hall. There are also rooms which are suitable for seminars, conferences, and film and photo sessions. The garden and "The Green Theatre" provide a splendid backdrop for a variety of activities such as concerts, theatre, opera and filming.

# Rundāle Palace

*A gem of baroque art in an unspoilt countryside*



The ceiling painting in the Gold Hall, detail





L. Schorer. Portrait of Duke Ernst Johann of Courland, 1773



L.C. Pfandzelt. Portrait of architect Ernst Johann Biron, mid-18th century



The state staircase of the east side



The White Hall



The Billiard Room

The Rundāle Palace ensemble, arguably the finest monument of baroque and rococo architecture in Latvia, was created as a summer residence for the Duke of Courland, Ernst Johann Biron, who was the favourite of the Russian empress Anna Ioannovna. The palace was designed by the famous Russian court architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli and built under his guidance between 1736 and 1740. Rundāle Palace is the earliest extant building by Rastrelli and the only one that shows his early work in interior design evident in both the state staircases and in the Small Gallery.



The Duke's Bedroom

When the Duchy of Courland was annexed by Russia in 1795, Rundāle Palace became the property of Count Valerian Zubov and later passed on to his brother Prince Platon Zubov. Until 1920 the Estate of Rundāle was owned by the Counts Shuvalov. The Palace was damaged in 1812 during the Franco-Russian war and also in 1919. The renovation of Rundāle Palace commenced in 1933. In 1972 the Museum began a thorough restoration work which is scheduled to be finished in 2014.

The original interior of Rundāle Palace, including stucco decorations, ceiling and wall paintings, parquet

The Gold Hall



The Audience Room

After Duke Ernst Johann's return from exile in 1763, the building of the palace continued under the guidance of both Rastrelli and architect Severin Jensen. Most of the interior was completed between 1765 and 1768 with sculptor Johann Michael Graff of Berlin in charge of the stucco decorations and Italian painters Francesco Martini and Carlo Zucchi responsible for the ceiling and wall paintings.



The Duke's Dressing Room

flooring and partly the stoves, has survived from the 18th century as the palace has never been rebuilt. Unfortunately from the original furnishings only a few objects remain. The interior arrangement has

been re-created using 18th century objects suited to the original function of each room, taking into consideration styles favoured during the era of Duke Ernst Johann and Duke Peter, their tastes and also principles used in furnishing European palaces at that time.

The doors of the Palace are now open giving access to forty-four rooms over two floors. The east wing of the Palace accommodates the staterooms for festivities: the Gold Hall (the Throne Room), the White Hall (the Ball Room) and the Grand Gallery (the Banqueting Room). There are also smaller rooms that exhibit collections of Chinese and Japanese porcelain. The first floor of the central building is occupied by the Duke's apartments which include nine staterooms and eight private rooms. The west wing contains six apartments of the Duchess as well as period fashion collections and an exhibition depicting the Biron family.

South of the Palace lies the "French garden" also designed by Rastrelli. It was maintained as a baroque park until the First World War. The continuing renovation of the garden was started in 1975 and has to date produced a large collection of rose varieties. The forest park behind the canal was surrounded by a wall in the 18th century and was used for hunting.



The Duchess' Boudoir

F. H. Barisien. Portrait of Duchess Dorothea with daughters Wilhelmine and Pauline, ca.1784

