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Léopold et Aurèle Robert

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- First major book in four decades on the 19th-century Swiss artist brothers Léopold and Aurèle Robert
- Based on an interdisciplinary joint research project of the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, and the École du Louvre in Paris
- Scholarly essays and some 170 colour plates are complemented by a literary text by acclaimed French author Pierre Senges
- Accompanies the exhibition: *Léopold et Aurèle Robert. Oh saisons ...* at the Musée des beaux-arts in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, and the Musée d'art et d'histoire in Neuchâtel, Switzerland from 15 May to 15 October 2023

Swiss painter Léopold Robert (1794–1835) is emblematic of the romantic myth of the artist with a tragic destiny. Educated in Paris at the École des Beaux-Arts and in the studios of artists Jacques-Louis David and Edouard Girardet, he moved to Italy in 1818. With the substantial assistance of his brother and fellow artist Aurèle (1805–71), he created idealised depictions of Italian brigand life and gained recognition throughout Europe. Yet, his success as a painter did not save him from the deep melancholy that eventually led to his suicide in 1835, due also to his unrequited love for Princess Charlotte Bonaparte. Loved and praised by collectors and art critics of their time, the Robert brothers' oeuvre gradually fell into oblivion after Léopold's death and Aurèle's subsequent return to Switzerland.

This book, published to coincide with a dual exhibition at the Musée d'art et d'histoire in Neuchâtel and the Musée des beaux-arts in the Robert brothers' native town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, pays tribute to their art and brings their great skill as painters back into focus. Based on a major research project at the University of Neuchâtel and the École du Louvre in Paris, it offers scholarly essays alongside some 170 colour plates.

Text in French.

David Lemaire is director of the Musée des beaux-arts in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. **Antonia Nessi** is co-director of the Musée d'art et d'histoire in Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

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