



Courtly Companions

Pugs and Other Dogs in Porcelain and Faience

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- More than 150 pugs and a wonderful variety of other dogs
- Knowledgeable texts about the pug as a popular companion at European courts
- Terrific insight into a previously unpublished southern German private collection

In the 18th century pugs found their way onto the laps of noblewomen and, with this, into the portraits of contemporary rulers. Small and forever panting, the pug could not be put to use as a watchdog or a herding dog, but it compensated for this with its charm. The dog ultimately found its way onto porcelain and faience. Johann Joachim Kändler, the most significant modeler of the Meissen porcelain manufactory, designed over 60 variants of the pug between 1740 and 1760 – standing, lying, scratching, and performing tricks. Kändler portrayed the pug belonging to Count Heinrich von Brühl in a splendid one-off, but he also produced models for serial production. This southern German collection comprises over 150 ceramic pugs as well as other dogs. Moreover, they do not just appear individually; they may also be part of a courtly scene or decorate wares in the gallant style – accessories such as flacons, (snuff) boxes, and walking-stick handles. Text in English and German.

