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## **Napoleon may have met his Waterloo but the old imperial magic lingers on**

WITH a major re-enactment at the battlefield site near Brussels, a barrage of radio and television programmes and many museum shows you could not fail to know June marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, the final allied defeat to Napoleon which changed the course of modern European history.

Two leading Mayfair galleries, Robilant and Voena and Stair Sainty, who share premises at 38 Dover Street, commemorate the event with an exhibition 'Napoleon: Antiquity to Empire'. It opened on June 18, the actual anniversary of the battle, and continues to the end of July.

The show comprises some 50 paintings, works of art, furniture and objects producing a highly personal imperial iconography inspired by the achievements of leaders who

inspired Napoleon, among them Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and Justinian.

Napoleon was a keen student of classical history and defined the art and fashion of his empire through artists, architects and designers harnessed to demonstrate his vision of power and majesty.

The Napoleonic era still has a prominent place in French cultural history and while Napoleon was defeated his legacy and charisma endures. He is almost religiously revered by many, and not just the French.

The idea for the exhibition originated with Marco Voena of Robilant and Voena, who have galleries in London, Milan and St. Moritz. He has long had a fascination with Napoleonic imagery and has a personal collection.

Among the exhibits is the illustrated regal life-size portrait of the Emperor from the studio of Baron Gerard. After London a modified version of the show moves to the Sperone Westwater Gallery in New York. - See more at:

<http://www.masterart.com/PortalDefault.aspx?tabid=149&postid=29242&categoryId=1801#sthash.j39HiPgQ.dpuf>

