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Portrait of Antoine-Georges-Francois de Chabaud-Latour and His Family

RISD Museum

Robert Babigian

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My name is Robert Babigian. I'm the owner of Warf Clothing and Wares on Westminster Street in Providence, Rhode Island. It's a men's wear retail boutique.

The work of art we're looking at today is *The Portrait of Chabaud-Latour and His Family*.

Of course for me, the standout obviously is the clothing, especially the men's wear. I'm also very inspired by the flow of the women's wear and the pallet used here. Both are obviously as a representation of the actual clothing of the time. It's subtly bold to me, especially given men's wear and fashion today that deals in a lot of tonal patterns.

What you see in this picture is a lot of tonality.

When I say tonal in terms of the dress on them, I mean things like they're sticking with a range of colors and hues such as grays, tans, and dark blues, or navies that work together very well. They complement each other so you have that tone.

But you also get pieces of boldness such as the red shirt that obviously stands out. However, it stands out in a way that it's not out of place.

The young boy has this pop of color from his red shirt. There's also the muted yellow of the count's pants toward the left side of the painting. That's really noticeable, as is what almost looks to be a pocket square. But being that it's on a lapel of his waistcoat, it may actually have either been some sort of insignia or a mark of stature.

Looking at the count's jacket, it's obviously military inspired.

You see that type of style from men's wear today obviously in military inspired pieces, and even in the consumer side like pea coats and in the U.S. and French militaries today.

From traditional men's wear as far back as the early 1800s like this, you see fit being impeccable.

Suiting such as what the father is wearing, or even pants like the boy is wearing –the tailoring of the trimmer fits –were still meant for movement. They were actually built to be close to the body so it allowed you freer movement. For example, if this was a military leader at the time – think of Bonaparte on a horse – they would ride a horse in full regalia because they could actually still move and fight in an entire suit in multiple layers. It was designed impeccably to fit and function.