

Raid the Icebox Now with Pablo Bronstein: Historical Rhode Island Decor

September 20, 2019–June 28, 2020

Historical Rhode Island Decor presents three rooms decorated with new wallpapers and printed fabrics of my design. The wallpapers depict the Stephen Hopkins House, the First Baptist Church in America, and the Rhode Island State House, and reflect the development of the architectural imagery of statehood. The wallpaper and fabric serve as the backdrop to objects from RISD Museum's storage to present plausible historical interiors. The wallpapers also refer to 18th- and early 19th-century examples in the museum's collection and to the revival of Colonial and Federal styles at the beginning of the 20th century—styles that have not only contributed significantly to shared visual imagery, but have shaped notions of the past.

This installation pays homage to the period room, an exhibition practice now in decline. It also considers museological accuracy, the museum's blurred relationship both as a place of scholarship and an inspiration for the home, and the ways in which museums submit to local historical biases and interests in shaping their collections and displays. Envisioned within the framework of printmaking, the presentation plays with architectural and decorative motifs, inventing imagery on a large scale in relation to sculptural furniture.

Pablo Bronstein was born in Argentina and lives and works in London and Deal, England. Drawing is his primary medium (see an example of his work in that medium in the 5th-floor European galleries), but he is also engaged in installations, choreography, and performance. Pulling from his deep knowledge and affection for historical architecture and the decorative arts, he interrogates these disciplines with humor and imagination for what they reveal about social ambitions, politics, and other concerns.

Raid the Icebox Now is made possible by a lead grant from the National Endowment for the Arts with support from Taylor Box Company, Pace Gallery, and a generous in-kind gift from Meyer Sound Laboratories. RISD Museum is supported by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and with the generous partnership of the Rhode Island School of Design, its Board of Trustees, and Museum Governors.

RISD MUSEUM

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Tsiaras Gallery

Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
Historic Rhode Island Decor (Stephen Hopkins House), 2019
Digitally printed wallpaper
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.1



Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
Historic Rhode Island Decor (Stephen Hopkins House), 2019
Digitally printed cotton
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.2



RISD MUSEUM

Johann Joachim Kändler
German, 1706–1775
Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Figure Personifying Autumn, ca. 1745
Porcelain with enamels, glaze, and gilding
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz 53.210



English
Lamp Pedestals, ca. 1900
Mahogany, mahogany veneer, glass, polychrome
Gift of Mrs. Guy Fairfax Cary 60.045.2 and .3



Niderviller Manufactory
French, 1754–1827
Putti Personifying Spring and Summer, ca. 1765–1770
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.205.1



RISD MUSEUM

Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1747–present
Figure Personifying of Music, ca. 1754–1755
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.185



Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1747–present
Figure Personifying Painting, ca. 1754–1755
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.184



Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Figure of Winter, ca. 1760
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Gift of the Estate of Abby Rockefeller Mauze 78.046.10



RISD MUSEUM

American
Chest of Drawers, 1755–1795
Mahogany with pine
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.073



Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Putto Holding Globe, 1745–1750
Porcelain with enamels, glaze, and gilding
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.183



American
Side Chairs, 1790–1815
Mahogany, light wood inlay, maple, pine
Gift of the Estate of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 31.137 and .139

Johann Joachim Kändler
German, 1706–1775
Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Figure Personifying Winter, 1741–1745
Porcelain with enamels, glaze, and gilding
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz 53.209



RISD MUSEUM

English

Wall Case, 1700s–1800s

Mahogany with glass

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Lucy Truman Aldrich, and Mrs.
Murray Danforth 37.074A



Niderviller Manufactory

French, 1754–1827

Putti Personifying Autumn and Winter, ca. 1765–1770

Porcelain with enamels and glaze

Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.205.2



American

Sofa, 1790–1815

Mahogany, maple, upholstery fabric

Gift of Elliot Flint 37.257



RISD MUSEUM

French
Clock, 1800–1810
Bronze, ormolu
Gift of a friend of the Museum 76.085



English
Kettle Stand, 1755–1790
Mahogany
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.043



English
Mirror, ca. 1750
Gilt wood and gesso, mirrored glass
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.108



RISD MUSEUM

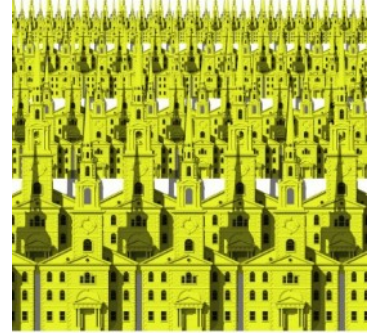
John Robins
English, active ca. 1796–ca. 1801
Tea Urn, 1784
Silver
Gift of Mrs. Harvey Baker 67.103



RISD MUSEUM

Buonanno Gallery – Study

Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
Historic Rhode Island Decor (First Baptist Church in America), 2019
Digitally printed wallpaper
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.3



Job Townsend
American, 1699–1765
Desk and Bookcase, 1750–1760
Mahogany, chestnut, pine, and tulipwood
Gift of Mrs. Murray S. Danforth 36.006



English
George II Settee, early 1900s
Mahogany
Lisle INV2019.2



RISD MUSEUM

American
Tilt-Top Table, 1760–1790
Mahogany
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.087



James Evans (signed Diego Evans for the Spanish market)
English, active ca. 1775–1825
Tall Clock, 1770–1800
Mahogany, mahogany veneer, gilt bronze, brass (alloy)
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.055



RISD MUSEUM

Stanislas Victor Edouard Lépine

French, 1835–1892

View of Paris, ca. 1870

Oil on canvas mounted on panel

Gift of Mr. Daniel Robbins and Mr. Robert Leeson 73.010



American

Side Chair, 1755–1790

Walnut, pine, upholstery fabric

Gift of the Estate of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 31.612



Edward Aldridge

English, 1724–1765

Cake Basket, 1752–1753

Silver

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Harrington 60.102



RISD MUSEUM

English

Mirror, ca. 1740

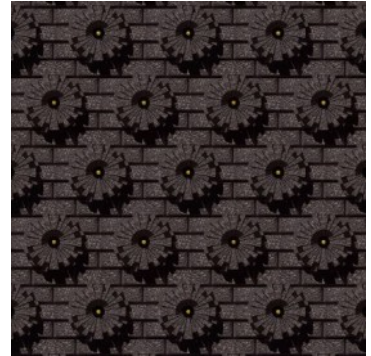
Wood with gilding and mirror

Gift of Mrs. J. J. Bodell 55.053.2



Buonanno Gallery – Bedroom

Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
Historic Rhode Island Decor (Rhode Island State House), 2019
Digitally printed wallpaper
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.4



Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
Historic Rhode Island Decor (Rhode Island State House), 2019
Digitally printed cotton
Promised gift of the artist L133.2019.5



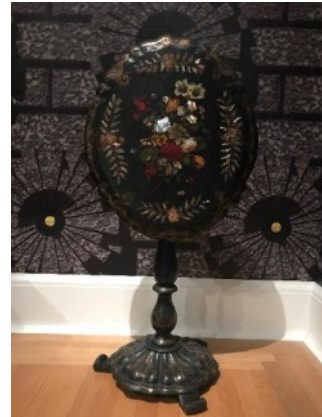
RISD MUSEUM

English

Tilt-Top Table, ca. 1850

Papier-mâché, mother-of-pearl inlay, gilding

Gift of Mrs. C.J. Moore, Jr. in memory of her father, Charles Brackett, Esq. 1995.063



Chinese

Enclosed Washstand, ca. 1805

Asian hardwood, brass (alloy)

Elizabeth T. and Dorothy N. Casey Fund 1999.57.5



American

High Chest of Drawers, ca. 1760–1780

Cherry, pine, tulipwood, brass (alloy)

Gift of Gilman Angier and Gilman Angier, Jr. in memory of Sarah Weston Angier 1991.137



RISD MUSEUM

English
Bedstead, mid-1700s
Mahogany and oak
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.099



Dirck van Delen
Dutch, 1604–1671
Architectural Interior at Night with the Priests of Bel, ca. 1628
Oil on panel
Gift of Mr. Morris I. Kaplan 55.153.1

