

*European Galleries (Dec-Jun 14 C&T Rotation)*, December 2, 2013-June 30, 2014

## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Italian; German

*Textile*, Mid 1600s

Linen or hemp (white threads) and wool (green yarn) brocatelle

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 06.074

The assymetrical coiling-stem design here was fashionable during the middle years of the 17th century, as was the pomegranate motif. Catalogued in 1916 by Dr. Rudolph Meyer-Riefstahl (1880-1936), this work was one of a group of seven unique brocatelle textiles given to the Museum by Mrs. Gustav Radeke in 1906. An art historian and NYU professor, Meyer-Riefstahl was an early scholar of textile history in the context of art and design education. Works such as these formed the foundation of the RISD Museum's Costume and Textile study collections; this textile in particular offered RISD Museum's strong example of pattern, repetition, and rhythm.



# RISD MUSEUM

Italian; Florentine

*Chasuble*, 1500s

Voided silk and metallic velvet with woven figural panels

Museum Appropriation Fund 29.090

Incredibly laborious to craft, velvets and patterned silks represent the height of technical and artistic refinement for the Renaissance period. Their expense can be traced to the materials they were made from, including silk fibers, real gold threads, and rare natural dyestuffs. Green silk velvets like this were among the costliest to create, requiring both blue and yellow dyes and two complete dye cycles.

This pattern, the "branched pomegranate cloth of gold," was often featured in paintings of the Madonna or used in ecclesiastical vestments like this chasuble. Its orphrey, or central panel, repeats an intricately woven image of the Madonna standing on a crescent moon, also known as the apocalyptic Madonna after a reference in Revelations 12:1,



French

*Textile fragment*, ca. 1785

Polychrome block print on siamoises (cotton and linen blend) plain-weave textile

Edgar J. Lownes Fund 41.020

This vibrant printed textile is a late 18th-century French interpretation of foreign motifs. The fantastical interepretation of foreign botifs. The fantastical botanicals refer to patterns on imported Indian fabrics, and the decorated gourd motif is likely nspired by Chinese porcelain vases.



To produce this fabric, a separate wooden block was used for each color in the design. Fine metal pins were affixed to the block to create the dotted red ground, often described as a picotage of stippled effect. Look closely to find heavy red lines snaking through the dots, indicating slight overlap of the printing blocks.