

European Galleries (C&T Dec - Oct), December 7, 2015-October 9, 2016

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Flemish, likely province of Antwerp or Flemish Brabant
Textile, late 1600s
Cotton plain weave with linen embroidery, drawnwork, and lace

insertions
Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 14.435

From the 1560s through the 17th century, Asian goods were actively traded between Venice and Antwerp, bringing cotton and other luxury fibers to Flanders. This fine cotton ground was worked with imported fibers and embellished with locally produced linen thread.

The central motif, known as pottenkant (or “vase of flowers”), was a signature of Flemish lace makers. An elaborately worked, large-scale example of whitework (white needlework on a white ground), this piece employs embroidery, lace insertions, and drawnwork, in which threads are drawn, or pulled aside, to create decorative patterns of open spaces.

Possibly Bromley Hall, textile manufacturer
English, 1694 - 1823
Furnishing textile, ca. 1780
Cotton plain weave with copperplate printing
Georgianna Sayles Aldrich Fund 2008.9.3

Trailing grapevines and expressive parrots decorate this very detailed copperplate-printed example. This work is unique in that the name of the designer is incorporated into the pattern itself: “I Penn” is written on the branch just under the seated parrot.



RISD MUSEUM

French

Textile fragment, ca. 1750

Cut silk velvet, embossed motif

Jesse Metcalf Fund 47.422

This sumptuous cut and impressed silk velvet is decorated with flowers, fruits, and bands of trompe l'oeil lace. This jubilant design originally would have been used for upholstering furniture.

Because of the great cost associated with manufacturing silk velvets, fragments were often donated to churches for ceremonial use. This example was embellished with gold trim (which has since been removed) and bears a circular impression on the bottom right, suggesting it may have served as an altar covering during the rite of communion.

