

# GORHAM SILVER

DESIGNING BRILLIANCE  
1850–1970

ON VIEW MAY 3 – DEC 1, 2019

*Gorham Silver: Designing Brilliance 1850–1970* casts new light on the legacy of this distinctive company, established in 1831 in Providence, Rhode Island. Home to the largest collection of Gorham, the RISD Museum presents exceptional silver and mixed-metal wares, reflecting the industry, artistry, innovation, and technology of the manufactory for 120 years. Adeptly coupling art and industry, Gorham boldly rose from a small firm to become the largest silver company in the world, putting uniquely American design on the international stage. Creating everything from commissioned presentation pieces to show-stoppers for the dining room, Gorham responded to the era's desire to celebrate, feast, socialize, honor, and simply enjoy the everyday in style. Accompanied by a major publication (Rizzoli) with stunning new imagery and recent research, the exhibition will travel to the Cincinnati Art Museum and The Mint Museum.

**Critical Encounters:  
Designing Innovation**

MAY 3 | 10 am–5:30 pm

Explore the history and impact of Gorham Manufacturing on industry, innovation, technology, and artistry in this day-long gathering with historians, curators, designers, and silversmiths. *Registration required. Free.*

**Opening Reception**

MAY 3 | 5:30–7:30 pm

Celebrate Gorham's important contribution to Rhode Island and design history. Refreshments. *Free.*

**Super Art Sunday**

JUN 23

Join us for a day of special family-friendly activities focused on Gorham Silver. Get the entire family looking, thinking, and making together. *Free.*

**Design the Night**

JUL 18 | 5–9 pm

Design your own summer night with lively art, music, food and drink. *Free.*

IMAGE: Gorham Manufacturing Company, *Fruit Stand* (detail), 1872. The Gorham Collection. Gift of Textron Inc.

Visit [RISDMUSEUM.ORG](http://RISDMUSEUM.ORG) for more details and a complete listing of all our programs and events.

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