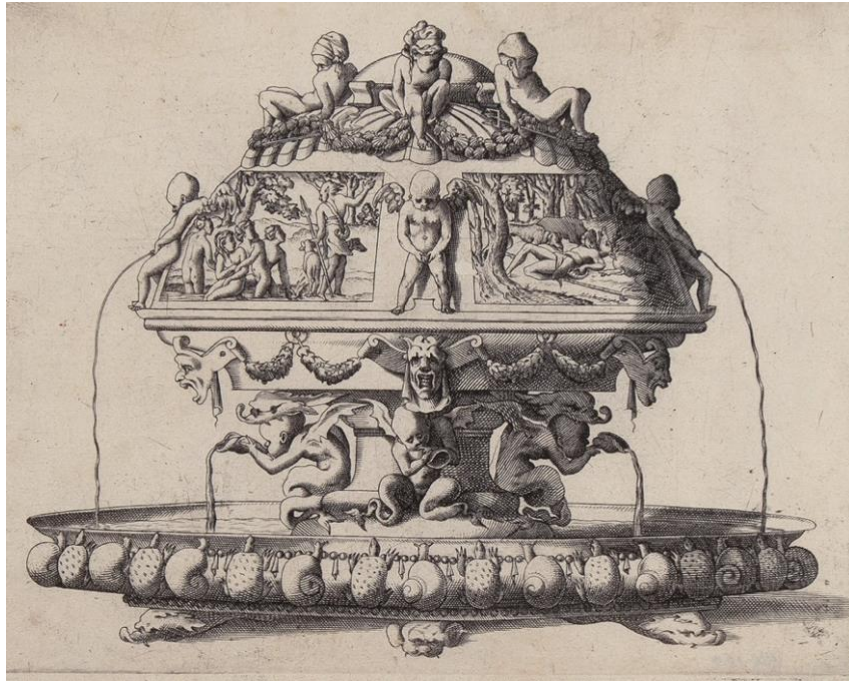


BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART



MEDIA ALERT: Blanton Museum to Present *Fantastically French! Design and Architecture in 16th- to 18th-Century Prints*

What: The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces [*Fantastically French! Design and Architecture in 16th- to 18th-Century Prints*](#), opening March 5, 2022 in the museum's *Paper Vault* galleries. Beginning with early French etchings and engravings from the decorative program for the Palace of Fontainebleau, the exhibition spans three centuries of printmaking that established France as a center for style and design.

In intricate combinations of ancient decorative motifs with fantastical ones, printmakers created everything from royal portraits and patterns for furnishings to architectural and ornamental designs for fountains, chimneys, and even the gardens of Versailles. One such emblematic work, René Boyvin's engraving *Design for a Fountain Supported by Dolphins* (above), fashions a design for a table fountain decorated with mythological scenes and supported by bat-winged children, dolphins, and a cornice of snails and tortoises.

These elaborate works reflected not only a monarchical desire for power and splendor, but also the seemingly inexhaustible fantasies of the artistic imagination that made prints such important sites for innovation. *Fantastically French!* features more than 60 prints from the Blanton's extensive holdings of French prints, alongside publications from the Harry Ransom Center Book Collection, including books by French Renaissance architects and prints by leading designers of the Rococo. Together, these works' exquisite details and fantastic forms are an expression of the creative spirit in pre-Revolutionary France.

When: March 5–August 14, 2022

Public Programs:*Fantastic Fromage!*

Thursday, April 7, 2022 | 6 p.m. CT

Cheese and art tasting with Antonelli's Cheese Shop and Holly Borham, Blanton Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and European Art

Curated Conversations: Fantastically French!

Wednesday, June TBD 2022 | 12 noon CT

As part of the Blanton's digital *Curated Conversations* series, exhibition curator Holly Borham will discuss key works in the exhibition.

More details and information on these public programs will be made available at blantonmuseum.org/events.

Admission Information:

Monday and Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday – Saturday: 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1– 5 p.m.

Due to construction on the grounds, the entrance to the museum is accessible via Brazos Street.

Fantastically French! Design and Architecture in 16th- to 18th-Century Prints is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

###

MEDIA CONTACT: Katie Bruton, katie.bruton@blantonmuseum.org

Image: René Boyvin, *Design for a Fountain Supported by Dolphins*, after Léonard Thiry or Rosso Fiorentino, 1560s, engraving, 5 11/16 x 7 3/16 in. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Archer M. Huntington Museum Fund, 1988

About the Blanton Museum of Art:

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.