COLOR THE BLANTON | ART PAGES

Fantastically French!
Design and Architecture in 16th- to 18th-Century Prints

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

This figure is quite mysterious! He wears a mask that laces behind his head, with unusual curling forms and suspended beads at the forehead and chin. Leaves and berries intertwine with his hair; a beaded necklace sits beneath his fur collar. He may be wearing a costume for a royal party, or perhaps he is meant to be a design for inlaid stonework that decorates a tabletop. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit **blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome**.

Image: Copy after Workshop of René Boyvin, *Fantastical Masked Male Head, after a drawing by Léonard Thiry (after designs by Rosso Fiorentino?)*, 1560s, engraving, 6 9/16 × 8 1/8 in. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, The Leo Steinberg Collection, 2002

Fantastically French!

Anne Allen and her husband Jean-Baptiste Pillement collaborated to make several sets of etchings that depict both real and imaginary flowers. Pillement supplied the drawings, while Allen transferred them to metal printing plates, applied colored ink, and produced the final prints. Free from the constraints of nature, Allen and Pillement could juxtapose flowers that bloom in different seasons and even invent new ones. Many artisans found these floral designs useful in constructing patterns on ceramics, textiles, and wallpaper. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit **blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome**.

Image: Anne Allen, *Fantastic Flowers with Roses and Other Flowers*, 1775–1800, color etching, inked à la poupée, 17 11/16 x 11 5/16 in. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Purchase through the generosity of the Still Water Foundation, 2022
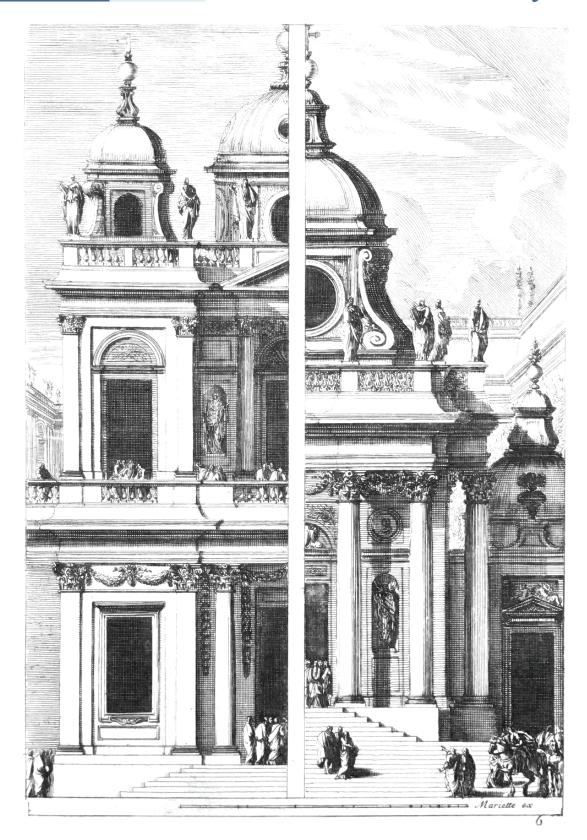
Joan. Wierix.
Sculpsit.
1600.

Princeſſe dont le nom honnora ta naiſſance
Le ciel ayant ton coeur de ſes graces veſtu
Augmente tellement le los de la vertu
Qu'on te deſire voir bien toſt Royne de France.

Auec priuil. du Roy.
Pauls de la Houue
excudebat.

This portrait depicts Marie de' Medici, a member of the powerful ruling family of Tuscany, in the year she married French King Henry IV. The artist portrays the new queen as a youthful beauty with an elaborate hairstyle, sumptuous clothing, and expensive jewelry. Marie de'Medici turned Paris into an artistic hub of Europe by commissioning the construction and decoration of a new royal residence. When her husband died in 1610, she ruled France until her son Louis XIII was old enough to take the throne. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit **blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome**.

Image: Jan Wierix, *Marie de' Medici, Queen of France*, 1600, engraving, 15 13/16 × 11 7/16 in. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Archer M. Huntington Museum Fund, 1991

Jean Le Pautre created many printed designs, including ones for decorative ceiling panels, chimneys, and vases. Here, he presents two types of church façades. Split down the middle, these architectural designs are meant to be read as variations, juxtaposed for easy comparison. Since such buildings would be symmetrical in design, showing only half the façade is an efficient way to present twice as many options within a single print series. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit bl**antonmuseum.org/museumfromhome**.

Image: Jean Le Pautre, Two Half Façades, plate 6 from Church Façades in the Italian Style, 1656- 82, etching, 8 7/8 × 6 1/4 in. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, The Leo Steinberg Collection, 2002