**Raid the Icebox Now with Pablo Bronstein: Historical Rhode Island Decor**

September 20, 2019–June 28, 2020

*Historical Rhode Island Decor* presents three rooms decorated with new wallpapers and printed fabrics of my design. The wallpapers depict the Stephen Hopkins House, the First Baptist Church in America, and the Rhode Island State House, and reflect the development of the architectural imagery of statehood. The wallpaper and fabric serve as the backdrop to objects from RISD Museum’s storage to present plausible historical interiors. The wallpapers also refer to 18th- and early 19th-century examples in the museum’s collection and to the revival of Colonial and Federal styles at the beginning of the 20th century—styles that have not only contributed significantly to shared visual imagery, but have shaped notions of the past.

This installation pays homage to the period room, an exhibition practice now in decline. It also considers museological accuracy, the museum’s blurred relationship both as a place of scholarship and an inspiration for the home, and the ways in which museums submit to local historical biases and interests in shaping their collections and displays. Envisioned within the framework of printmaking, the presentation plays with architectural and decorative motifs, inventing imagery on a large scale in relation to sculptural furniture.

**Pablo Bronstein** was born in Argentina and lives and works in London and Deal, England. Drawing is his primary medium (see an example of his work in that medium in the 5th-floor European galleries), but he is also engaged in installations, choreography, and performance. Pulling from his deep knowledge and affection for historical architecture and the decorative arts, he interrogates these disciplines with humor and imagination for what they reveal about social ambitions, politics, and other concerns.

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Pablo Bronstein  
Argentine/British, b. 1977  
*Historic Rhode Island Decor (Stephen Hopkins House)*, 2019  
Digitally printed wallpaper  
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.1

Pablo Bronstein  
Argentine/British, b. 1977  
*Historic Rhode Island Decor (Stephen Hopkins House)*, 2019  
Digitally printed cotton  
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.2
Johann Joachim Kändler
German, 1706–1775
Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Figure Personifying Autumn, ca. 1745
Porcelain with enamels, glaze, and gilding
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz 53.210

English
Lamp Pedestals, ca. 1900
Mahogany, mahogany veneer, glass, polychrome
Gift of Mrs. Guy Fairfax Cary 60.045.2 and .3

Niderviller Manufactory
French, 1754–1827
Putti Personifying Spring and Summer, ca. 1765–1770
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.205.1
Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1747–present
Figure Personifying of Music, ca. 1754–1755
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.185

Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1747–present
Figure Personifying Painting, ca. 1754–1755
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.184

Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Figure of Winter, ca. 1760
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Gift of the Estate of Abby Rockefeller Mauze 78.046.10
American
Chest of Drawers, 1755–1795
Mahogany with pine
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.073

Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Putto Holding Globe, 1745–1750
Porcelain with enamels, glaze, and gilding
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.183

American
Side Chairs, 1790–1815
Mahogany, light wood inlay, maple, pine
Gift of the Estate of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 31.137 and .139

Johann Joachim Kändler
German, 1706–1775
Meissen Porcelain Manufactory
German, 1710–present
Figure Personifying Winter, 1741–1745
Porcelain with enamels, glaze, and gilding
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz 53.209
English
Wall Case, 1700s–1800s
Mahogany with glass
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Lucy Truman Aldrich, and Mrs. Murray Danforth 37.074A

Niderviller Manufactory
French, 1754–1827
Putti Personifying Autumn and Winter, ca. 1765–1770
Porcelain with enamels and glaze
Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.205.2

American
Sofa, 1790–1815
Mahogany, maple, upholstery fabric
Gift of Elliot Flint 37.257
French
Clock, 1800–1810
Bronze, ormolu
Gift of a friend of the Museum 76.085

English
Kettle Stand, 1755–1790
Mahogany
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.043

English
Mirror, ca. 1750
Gilt wood and gesso, mirrored glass
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.108
John Robins
English, active ca. 1796–ca. 1801
Tea Urn, 1784
Silver
Gift of Mrs. Harvey Baker 67.103
Buonanno Gallery – Study

Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
*Historic Rhode Island Decor (First Baptist Church in America)*, 2019
Digitally printed wallpaper
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.3

Job Townsend
American, 1699–1765
Desk and Bookcase, 1750–1760
Mahogany, chestnut, pine, and tulipwood
Gift of Mrs. Murray S. Danforth 36.006

English
George II Settee, early 1900s
Mahogany
Lisle INV2019.2
American
Tilt-Top Table, 1760–1790
Mahogany
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.087

James Evans (signed Diego Evans for the Spanish market)
English, active ca. 1775–1825
Tall Clock, 1770–1800
Mahogany, mahogany veneer, gilt bronze, brass (alloy)
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.055
Stanislas Victor Edouard Lépine
French, 1835–1892
View of Paris, ca. 1870
Oil on canvas mounted on panel
Gift of Mr. Daniel Robbins and Mr. Robert Leeson 73.010

American
Side Chair, 1755–1790
Walnut, pine, upholstery fabric
Gift of the Estate of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 31.612

Edward Aldridge
English, 1724–1765
Cake Basket, 1752–1753
Silver
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Harrington 60.102
English
Mirror, ca. 1740
Wood with gilding and mirror
Gift of Mrs. J. J. Bodell 55.053.2
Buonanno Gallery – Bedroom

Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
*Historic Rhode Island Decor (Rhode Island State House)*, 2019
Digitally printed wallpaper
Promised gift of the artist TL133.2019.4

Pablo Bronstein
Argentine/British, b. 1977
*Historic Rhode Island Decor (Rhode Island State House)*, 2019
Digitally printed cotton
Promised gift of the artist L133.2019.5
English
Tilt-Top Table, ca. 1850
Papier-mâché, mother-of-pearl inlay, gilding
Gift of Mrs. C.J. Moore, Jr. in memory of her father, Charles Brackett, Esq. 1995.063

Chinese
Enclosed Washstand, ca. 1805
Asian hardwood, brass (alloy)
Elizabeth T. and Dorothy N. Casey Fund 1999.57.5

American
High Chest of Drawers, ca. 1760–1780
Cherry, pine, tulipwood, brass (alloy)
Gift of Gilman Angier and Gilman Angier, Jr. in memory of Sarah Weston Angier 1991.137
English
Bedstead, mid-1700s
Mahogany and oak
Bequest of Mr. Charles L. Pendleton 04.099

Dirck van Delen
Dutch, 1604–1671
Architectural Interior at Night with the Priests of Bel, ca. 1628
Oil on panel
Gift of Mr. Morris I. Kaplan 55.153.1