

Fantastically French!

Design and Architecture in 16th- to 18th-Century Prints

1: Introduction

Welcome to *Fantastically French! Design and Architecture in 16th- to 18th- Century Prints*, an exhibition in the Blanton Museum of Art's Paper Vault galleries. I'm Holly Borham, associate curator of prints, drawings, and European art.

This exhibition celebrates the creativity and ingenuity of artists and designers across three centuries. We will explore the role that prints play in inspiring designs across a range of media, from jewelry to architecture. We will see French design emerge as the most influential style in Europe, serving the needs of royal courts intent on cultural domination.

I invite you to look closely at the exquisite and surprising details in this exhibition, which are best viewed using the magnifying glasses in the galleries. If you'd like to take part in a seek and find, please pick up one of the laminated handouts at the entrance and see how many decorative motifs and architectural elements you can locate throughout the exhibition.

As you explore these three galleries, look for art works featuring labels with the audio tour symbol and dial the corresponding phone number to learn more. You can discover which winged creature symbolizes death and how prints served as the social media equivalent of their day.