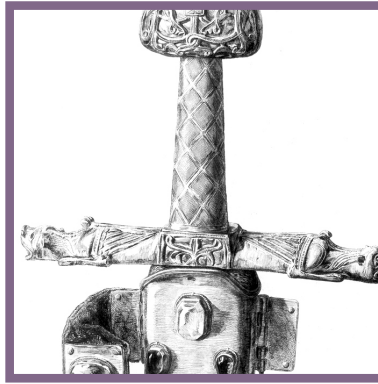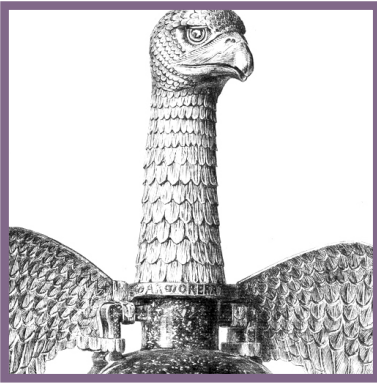# COLOR THE BLANTON | ART PAGES

FEATURING ARTWORK FROM

Medieval X Modern

This exhibition is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

PL. 6.   MUSÉE DU LOUVRE.

Jules Jacquemart's etchings of the French crown jewels at the Louvre Museum are so detailed and realistic that they rival photographs. This vase made of porphyry (a hard, reddish-purple stone) is also known as "Suger's Eagle" after its most famous owner. Abbot Suger is widely credited as the inventor of the Gothic style of architecture thanks to his renovations of the royal church of Saint-Denis between 1137 and 1144. Suger had the ancient Egyptian porphyry vessel mounted within a gilded silver eagle and it was long displayed with other royal regalia in the treasury of Saint-Denis. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit **blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome**.

Image: Jules Ferdinand Jacquemart, *Porphyry Vase with Eagle Head*, from *Les Gemmes et joyaux de la couronne* [*The Gems and Crown Jewels*], vol. 1, 1865, etching with plate tone, plate: 15 3/16 × 11 5/16 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Isidore Simkowitz in memory of Amy Cecelia Simkowitz-Rogers, 1998
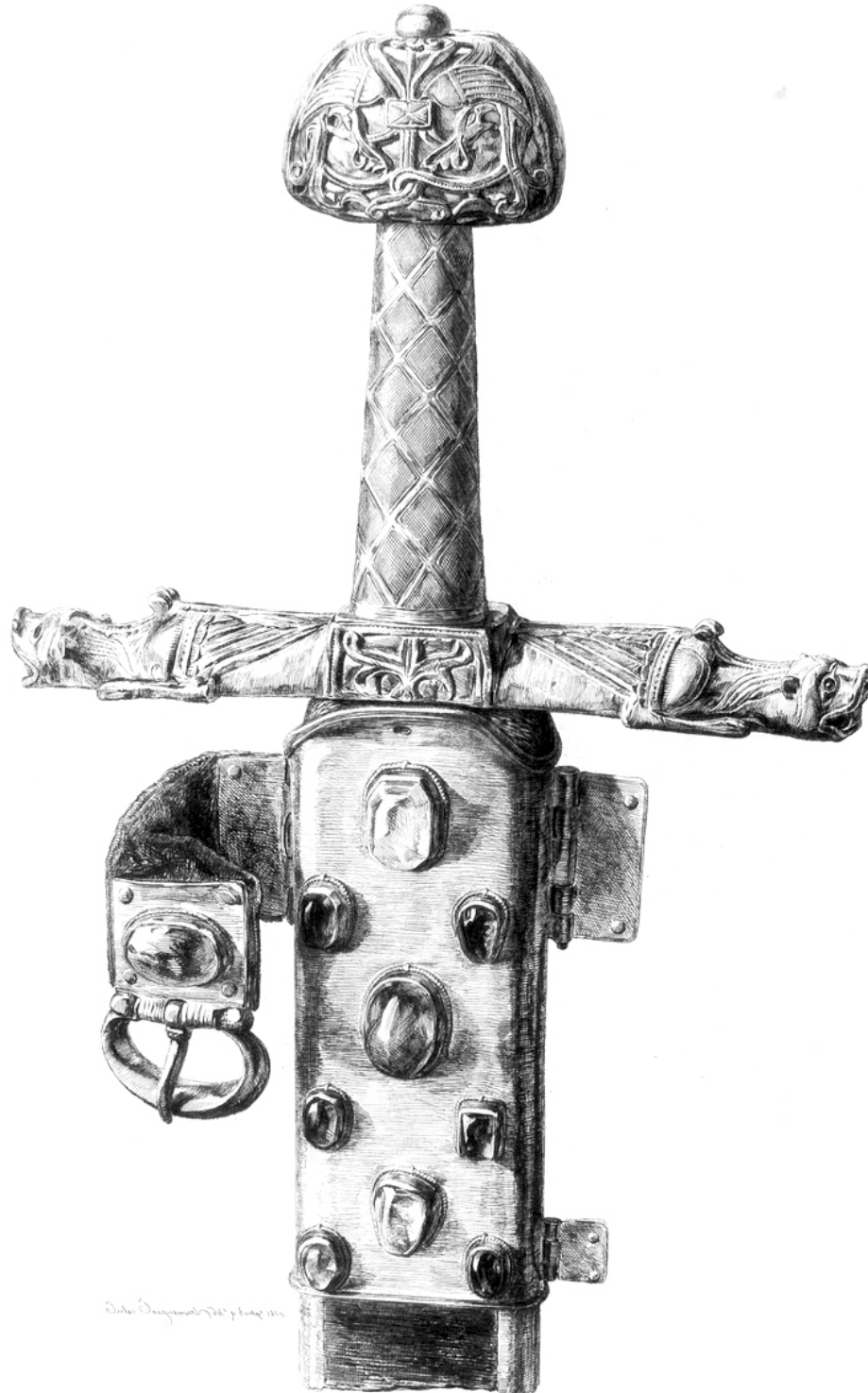
Among the objects represented in Jules Jacquemart's incredibly detailed etchings of the French crown jewels is this sword, believed by some to have belonged to Charlemagne. Crowned as Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Leo III in 800 CE, Charlemagne was the first ruler to unify western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire in the fifth century. This sword was used in coronation ceremonies for French kings through the nineteenth century. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit **blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome**.

Image: Jules Ferdinand Jacquemart, *The Sword of Charlemagne*, 1864, from *Les Gemmes et joyaux de la couronne* [*The Gems and Crown Jewels*], vol.1, 1865, etching with plate tone, plate: 15 7/16 × 11 5/16 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Isidore Simkowitz in memory of Amy Cecelia Simkowitz-Rogers, 1998
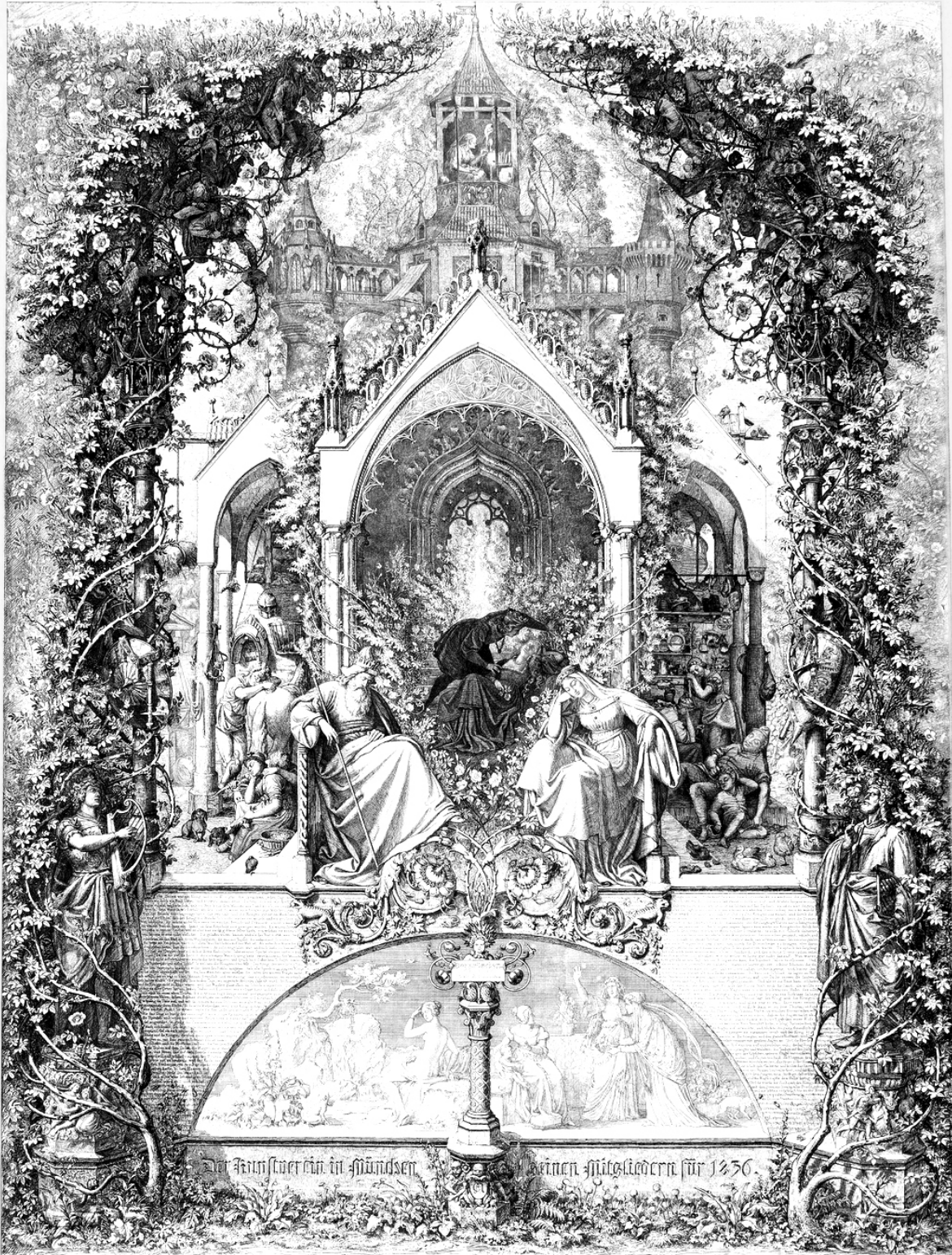
German artist Eugen Neureuther stages the Grimm Brothers' story of Sleeping Beauty in a cut-away castle, whose delicate pointed arches and elaborate architectural ornamentation exemplify the Gothic style. The full text of the story is inscribed beneath the slumbering king and queen. How many sleeping courtiers can you find tangled in the thorny frame? For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit **blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome**.

Image: Eugen Napoleon Neureuther, *Dörnroschen* [*Sleeping Beauty*], 1836, etching, 31 1/8 × 23 1/4 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Jack S. Blanton Curatorial Endowment Fund, 2002