

## ***Collecting Reimagined: A 2D Curiosity Cabinet***

Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Connecticut  
December 14, 2019 – March 29, 2020

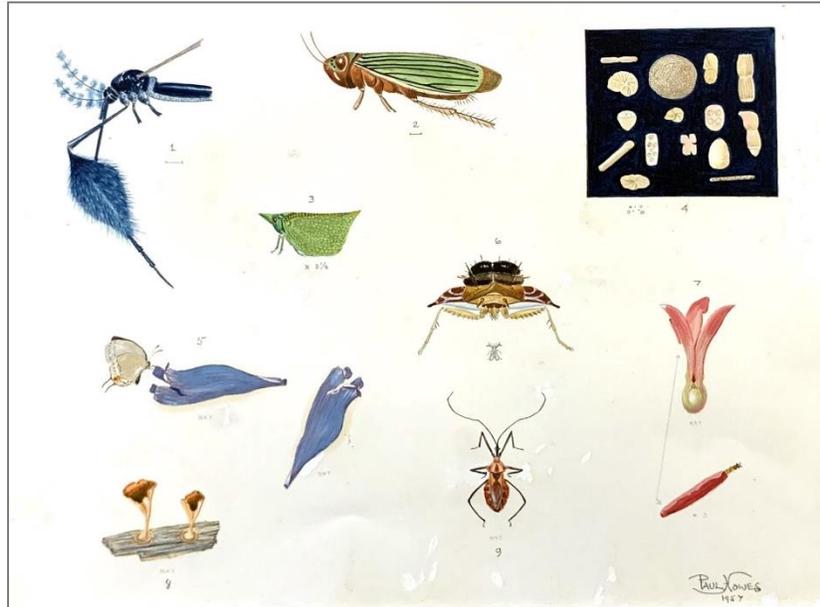


After William Hogarth (British, 1697-1764) *Marriage A-la-Mode, Plate III*, 1745. Etching and engraving.  
Engraved by Bernard Baron (French, 1696-1762). Gift of David Larson, Bruce Museum Collection 2005.02.30.

**GREENWICH, CT, October 28, 2019** – Sea serpents crushing ships. Seven-foot-tall giants. A mummified Porsche. What other oddities might you find in the Bruce Museum’s 2D curiosity cabinet?

See for yourself by exploring the Bruce Museum’s new exhibition, *Collecting Reimagined: A 2D Curiosity Cabinet*, opening in the Museum’s Bantle Lecture Gallery on Saturday, December 14, 2019.

The practice of collecting objects and putting them on display in cabinets of curiosities reached its peak among European collectors, scientists, and royalty during the 16th and 17th centuries. The purposes of these rooms varied, from showcasing prized possessions to serving as educational tools. Some cabinet owners even aspired to the metaphysical in their desire to create a microcosm of the universe through their collections.



Paul Griswold Howes (American, 1892-1984) *Untitled (Insect, Fungi, and Pollen Study)*, 1957.  
Watercolor. Gift of the artist, Bruce Museum Collection 19721.

Curiosity cabinets are traditionally thought of as physical spaces filled with objects. However, scholars and artists in the past also used words and images to describe, and occasionally create, cabinets in two-dimensional form. In these works, the cabinet is shown on paper rather than displayed in a room. Prints such as the third plate from William Hogarth's *Marriage A-la-Mode* series (shown above) depict the interior spaces and contents of cabinets. Books filled with printed images detail the objects in the cabinets and the categories used to organize them.

Drawing inspiration from these cabinets on paper, this exhibition uses printed works, photographs, medals, textiles, and scrimshaw from the Bruce Museum collections to create a cabinet filled with two-dimensional depictions of typical three-dimensional cabinet objects.

On view through March 29, 2020, *Collecting Reimagined: A 2D Curiosity Cabinet* is curated by H.S. Miller, the Museum's Zvi Grunberg Resident Fellow 2019-20. The exhibition is based on a chapter of the master's dissertation Miller completed while studying at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

"To see an aspect of my research take on a new life as an exhibition is really exciting," says Miller. "Cabinets of curiosities capture my imagination both as a former scientist who is curious about the natural world and as an art historian who adores all things weird, wacky, and wonderful."



Fragment from the Room Where Jesse James was Shot, 1888. Lath on board. Gift of O.G. Palmer, Bruce Museum Collection 549.



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## Press Release

The Bruce Museum is grateful for exhibition support from the Charles M. and Deborah G. Royce Exhibition Fund and the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

Admission to the Museum is free through January 31, 2020, while our main galleries are being renovated. The Permanent Science Gallery will remain open, as will the Bantle Lecture Gallery, Education Workshop, and Museum Store. Complete calendar listings, including programs related to the exhibition, will be listed on [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org).

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### **About the Bruce Museum**

The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting art and science in more than a dozen changing exhibitions annually. The permanent galleries feature the natural sciences that encompass regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents and attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, including 24,000 schoolchildren, reaching out to families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Bruce Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org).

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