



PABLO BRONSTEIN A flight of (fondant) fancy!

Today's generous slice of inspiration comes courtesy of a recent Holburne acquisition
'Design for a cake basket and two muffineers en-suite II', Pablo Bronstein 2017

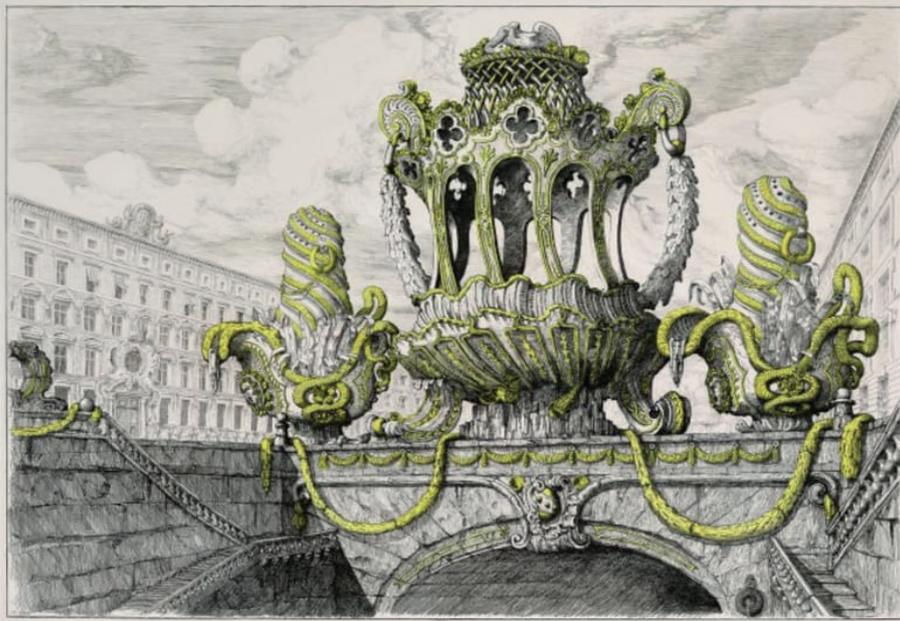


Image: artbasel.com

At a glance this piece looks like a design or drawing of an actual thing, probably from the eighteenth century.

But look again at the picture (and the title, and the date)
Is some-one pulling our leg?

A giant cake basket in the middle of a bridge...surely not? Are cake baskets even a thing? But it looks believable. Maybe it was designed for some grand event?

Spoiler alert ... it isn't real!

This is what Bronstein's work is all about; combining the real and the imaginary so it's hard to tell where one starts and the other ends... and making the grand FANTASTICAL!

There's an element of forgery to his work. He painstakingly recreates the feel of old architectural drawings so that he can present dreamlike ridiculousness as a matter of historical fact.



'Relocation of Temple Bar', 2009
Image: saatchigallery.com

He often presents real buildings or monuments out of context (either changing the time or place) to make them part of some epic story.



'Erecting the Paternoster Square Column', 2008
Image: tate.org.uk

Take these two examples, based on famous London landmarks. They look almost like biblical scenes, giving the sense that these structures were dragged across open ground and heaved into place like the stones of Stonehenge. But in Georgian times? In the famously deserted plains of Central London? Hmm...

"GREAT!" I hear you cry "WHAT'S OUR PROJECT?". Read on

YOUR MISSION FOR TODAY:

Choose a building or man-made structure or object and 'Bronstein' it!

You can take the Holburne Museum (there's a larger picture on last page) or some other grand building in Bath as your starting point, or choose your own house, a postbox, a dog basket...have fun with it!

You can draw, collage, create a cereal box construction, make a cake - whatever you like.

There are really only TWO rules:

1. MAKE IT FANCY!

Bronstein says: *'I'm not excited by good-quality, decent, sophisticated buildings. I like buildings that want to be seen as better than they are'*. So whatever your subject is, **make it grander!**

2. HAVE FUN FIBBING!

Pull our leg, confuse us! Set your subject in another place or time, give it a made up story, make it dream like.

(If you're taking the Holburne building as your starting point, consider that it was originally built as a hotel, does this give you new ideas...a grand opening perhaps?)



INSPIRATION STATION BAROQUE AND ROCOCO

Bronstein's work is highly influenced by these eighteenth century decorative styles which are exceptionally ornamental and theatrical. Without wanting to make art historians spit their coffee, they are all about covering things in swirls, frills and shells and 'stuff' to make them as fancy as possible!

Here are a couple of examples from the Holburne's collection.

See more here <http://collections.holburne.org/home>



The Witcombe Cabinet, English, jappaned and silvered wood, about 1697



Two-handled cup and cover, Charles Frederick Kandler, silver, 1736/37

CAKES, SHELLS AND FRILLS!

Don't forget you can 'cake-up' your piece too if you wish. A wealth of inspiration can be found if you websearch 'Baroque Cakes'!

Swirls, shells and natural forms pop up a lot in Baroque and Rococo styles too.

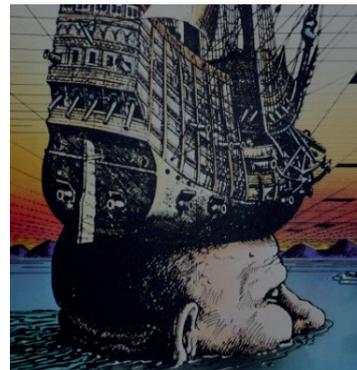


Image: modwedding.com

Image: theknot.com

SAME BALL PARK?

This **Quentin Blake** illustration from *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl is a great example of the everyday made FANTASTIC.



Check out the work of **Terry Gilliam** (PARENTAL ADVISORY.. some of it can be a bit rude) for great examples of historical illustration being taken on a flight of fancy!

And the film **Mortal Engines** did some pretty crazy things with well known landmarks!

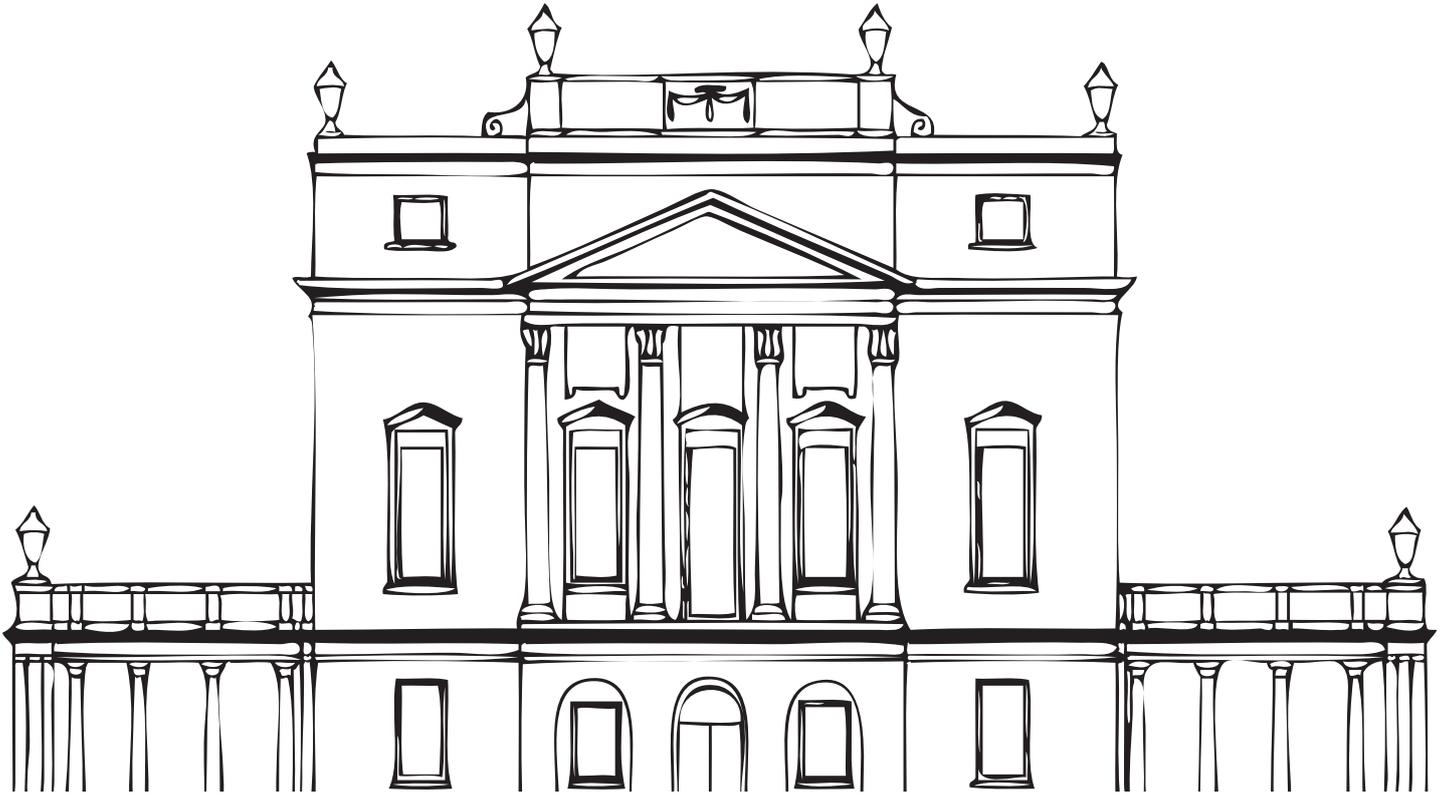


REASSURANCE!

This project is about having FUN, not necessarily creating a great work of art. As Pablo Bronstein himself says, *'My feeling is that if it looks too much like art then it probably isn't art.'*

Of course you may wind up producing a great work of art... in which case what does he know?

SOME BIGGER HOLBURNE IMAGES



Share a photo of what you make!
Send to e.blythe@holburne.org
Instagram
[changing_lives_through_art](https://www.instagram.com/changing_lives_through_art) 

