

One Object, Many Stories: Esherick's Music Stand
March 2, 2023 – May 14, 2023

One Object, Many Stories: Esherick's Music Stand Opens March 2nd

Exhibition featuring prototype of Esherick's iconic music stand highlights the many rich stories one object can tell.

Malvern, PA – The Wharton Esherick Museum (WEM) is pleased to announce the opening of *One Object, Many Stories: Esherick's Music Stand*, on view in the museum's Visitor Center beginning March 2, 2023.

Each object in the collection of the Wharton Esherick Museum – from major pieces of sculpture and furniture to the unassuming ephemera hidden in drawers and cabinets – holds within it myriad stories. *One Object, Many Stories* offers a deep dive into one of Esherick's most well known sculptural furniture forms: the music stand.

Esherick created the music stand for Rose Rubinson who, along with her husband Nathan (Nat), was one of Esherick's most significant patrons in the 1950s and 1960s. Their friendship is just one of the narratives explored in *One Object, Many Stories*. Others include Esherick's stylistic language, influences, process, and context at mid-century; how the music stand became the impetus for new designs for Esherick; and the use of this object in several exhibitions, both domestic and international, that would define Esherick's career and legacy.

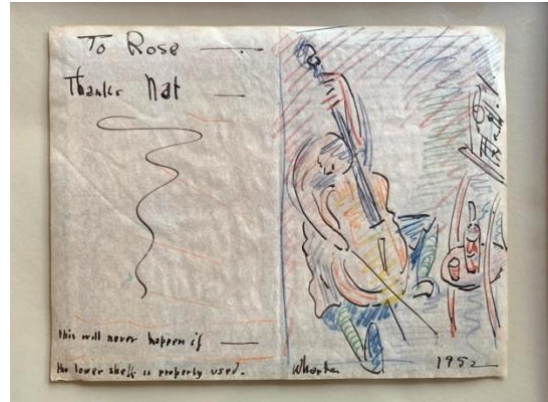
Complimenting the display of Esherick's prototype music stand is a selection of archival materials and sketches. As important patrons whose friendship with Esherick lasted for three decades, the Rubinson's feature heavily among the stories explored. One sketch by Esherick captures the closeness of their relationship – a quick and colorful cartoon of Rose asleep at her cello beside the music stand, the three legs of which are braced by a triangular shelf holding a drink, with a note "This will never happen if the lower shelf is properly used." Esherick insisted the



Single Music Stand, Wharton Esherick, 1960, cherry, walnut, 44 x 18.25 x 20, from the Collection of the Wharton Esherick Museum, based on the prototype created for the Rubinsons. Photo by Eoin O'Neill, courtesy of WEM.

music stand shelf was not to hold Rose’s musical paraphernalia, but “for a little snifter in case you feel faint during a performance.”

Geoffrey Berwind, grandson of Nat and Rose and a member of the Museum’s Board of Directors, is also featured among the music stand’s many stories. The prototype music stand is on view in *One Object, Many Stories* through the generosity of Berwind, who sees WEM as the work’s natural home, and its return as a homecoming to the site where it was made. “We are not only thrilled to have the opportunity to share this wonderful work with our visitors,” said WEM Director of Curatorial Affairs and Strategic Partnerships Emily Zilber. “but also to honor the continued involvement of the Rubinson/Berwind Family in preserving and celebrating Esherick’s legacy since the museum’s founding in 1972.”



Untitled sketch by Wharton Esherick, 1952, on loan from Geoffrey Berwind. Photo courtesy of WEM.

Related Programs:

3/1/2023 3:00 – 5:00 pm *One Object, Many Stories* Member Preview Reception

3/14/2023 12:00pm *Virtual Program - Spotlight Talk: Geoffrey Berwind*

***One Object, Many Stories: Esherick’s Music Stand* is an onsite exhibition open March 2, 2023 – May 14, 2023, on display in the Museum’s Visitor Center. Please note, all visitors must have advance tour reservations to enter the Studio. Details about visiting can be found at whartonesherickmuseum.org.**

About the Wharton Esherick Museum: The Wharton Esherick Museum, located just outside of Valley Forge Park in Malvern, PA is the handcrafted home and studio of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970), an internationally significant artist and leader of the Studio Furniture Movement. Esherick worked primarily in wood and extended his unique forms to furniture, furnishings, interiors, buildings, and more. His motto, “If it isn’t fun, it isn’t worth doing,” is evident in the joyful expression of his work. A National Historic Landmark for Architecture, his hilltop studio/residence has been preserved much as it was when the artist lived and worked there.

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