

Norton Hall Art Collection



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Miniature Bedrooms Collection by Eugene Kupjack







Miniature Bedroom Collection

Artist: Eugene Kupjack

The Furniture Discovery Center gratefully acknowledges Serta, Incorporated for its gift of the Serta Miniature Bedrooms Collection for permanent display in High Point. This exquisite, one-of-a-kind collection was crafted for Serta by master miniaturist, Eugene Kupjack. The collection was then acquired by the High Point Doll and Miniature Museum, before being given to HPU.

Serta Imperial Bedroom Collection

Serta commissioned Mr. Kupjack to design the Imperial Collection in 1968. As makers of Serta Perfect Sleeper mattresses and box springs, the company exhibited the miniature rooms in bedding stores and departments across the country. The Imperial Bedrooms provide a glimpse into the private chambers of royalty, tracing the history of beds and bedding throughout the centuries. Each of these six miniatures is accurately reproduced in one-inch scale, making them one-twelfth actual size.

Serta Beds of America Collection

Serta commissioned Mr. Kupjack to design the Beds of America Collection in 1976. Inspired by Serta's interest in bedding past, present, and future, the company wanted these eight miniatures to tell our national bedtime story. From the early 18th Century to the present (from left to right) the rooms visually capture a vast array of sleep surfaces: beds in the wall, beds that fold, stack, and tilt, and mattresses stuffed with corn husks, cattail wool, wheat hull, feathers, shavings, and hair. Each model bears a legend which describes the bed, its sleeping surface, and the sleep-related artifacts in the bedroom. The ninth miniature envisions the Bed of Tomorrow.

About the Artist

Eugene Kupjack, noted artist-historian, designer, inventor, and miniaturist has left a legacy of works for the world to enjoy.

Chicago-born and educated, Kupjack was designing window displays in 1937 when he became interested in Mrs. James Ward Thorne's first collection of miniature rooms. For three and a half years he worked with Mrs. Thorne to produce her collection of rooms now on permanent display at the Art Institute of Chicago.

During WW II Mr. Kupjack served for six years in the U.S. Navy. As a Commander in the Office of Naval Research in Washington, D.C. he created orthopedic instruments, thirteen of which were patented. Following the war he entered the surgical instrument business, while still continuing to create miniatures for Mrs. Thorne.

In 1959 he built seventeen miniature rooms depicting the work of contemporary designers for the annual convention of the American Institute of Decorators. A number of commissions followed, and his fulltime career in the field was launched.

The miniature recreation of these period bedrooms offers a nostalgic glimpse into the past and future, and taken as a group, provides a survey of stylistic differences of interior and architectural design. Today, many of Mr. Kupjack's rooms are displayed in museums and private collections around the country.

Standing Nude by Andrea Wheless



Standing Nude

Artist: Andrea Wheless

Andrea Wheless graduated from UNCG with a Bachelor's of Fine arts and a Master's of Fine Arts in Sculpture. Wheless has taught at High Point University as a professor of Art since 1987. She sculpts figurative work in various media and is a member of the College Arts Association, the Southeastern College Arts Conference and of Tri-State Sculptors. This piece marks a change in her work because it became more freely modeled than her previous work. It was first modeled in clay on an armature; a mold was made and then the piece was cast in "cast stone." It also has patina on the surface. She finished this piece in 1985 and it has been located in a staff office in Smith Library.