Praesentation eines schönen Kunstkabinett

Invented and produced exclusively by the printmaker Martin Engelbrecht of Augsburg, this type of layered theater entertained upper-class audiences throughout Europe in the 1700s. These miniature paper theaters provided a glimpse into contemporary society or a review of historical and biblical events. In this example, the depiction of a Wunderkammer (chamber of wonder) demonstrates how its collection of natural and artificial wonders was open for study to an elite audience.

Praesentation eines schönen Kunstkabinett
(Depiction of a Beautiful Cabinet of Wonders)
About 1720–50
Martin Engelbrecht
German, 1684–1756
Etching, engraving, and watercolor
6 ¼ x 8 in.
The Getty Research Institute
99.R.8