

Noah Breuer: Návrat

28. 9. 2024 – 16. 3. 2025

Havlíčková vila, třída 1. máje, Břeclav-Poštorná

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Handkerchief product samples
Printed by CB&S in Dvůr Králové, circa 1910



Pilot, Screenprint, 22x22 in.
Printed by Noah Breuer, 2016

This exhibition represents a summary of Noah Breuer's investigation of early twentieth-century domestic textile design and Jewish-owned textile companies in Czech Bohemia and Moravia. His artwork responds to their visual legacy and to their role within a distinct economic and cultural landscape. The case study for his research and artwork is Carl Breuer and Sons (CB&S), his family's former textile printing business, founded 1897 in Bohemia. (Carl is Noah's great-great-grandfather.) In 1939, upon the German takeover of Czechoslovakia, the CB&S company was seized and sold to new, Nazi-approved owners, as was the fate of all other Jewish-owned property in German-occupied areas. In time, most of his family members were sent to concentration camps and murdered. With the loss of their livelihood and then their very lives, most remnants of their work also disappeared.

During his 2016 research trip to the Czech Republic, Breuer uncovered a substantial company archive of CB&S printed fabric samples and designs, held for decades within the Czech Textile Museum in Česká Skalice, as well as the company's business records held in state archives in Zámrsk and in Dvůr Králové nad Labem, where the Breuer company was based. Breuer was able to amass a rich collection of primary source material in the form of digital scans and photographs depicting original CB&S textiles and samples, business records and correspondence. This archival material became a springboard for his art practice and led him to create an array of print-based objects and installations which raise questions about labor, authorship and appropriation while touching on his family's story of persecution. Breuer refers to this endeavor as, "a reclamation project in which I resurrect, reinterpret and indeed, reclaim the designs of the lost Breuer family business and make them my own."

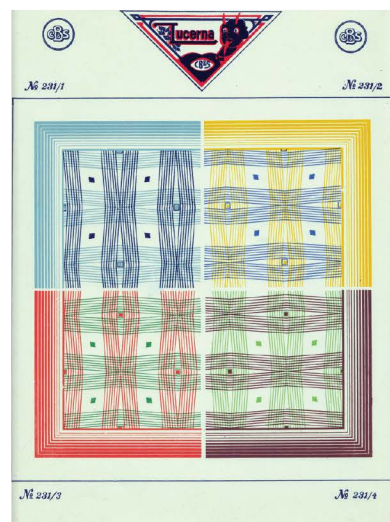


On July 10, 1897, Carl Breuer, and his two sons, Felix and Ernst, placed an ad in Vienna's commercial newspaper of record, *Amtsblatt*, announcing the formation of Carl Breuer & Söhne, their new trading company in the city's first district, distributing woven fabric. They weren't starting from scratch because Carl had already worked for Stern and Company, another woven fabric business in Vienna. What's more, his wife's family, the Schnabels, had a long history in the textile industry. The families' experience and connections with textile manufacturing in the neighboring Czech lands contributed greatly to the new company's early success.

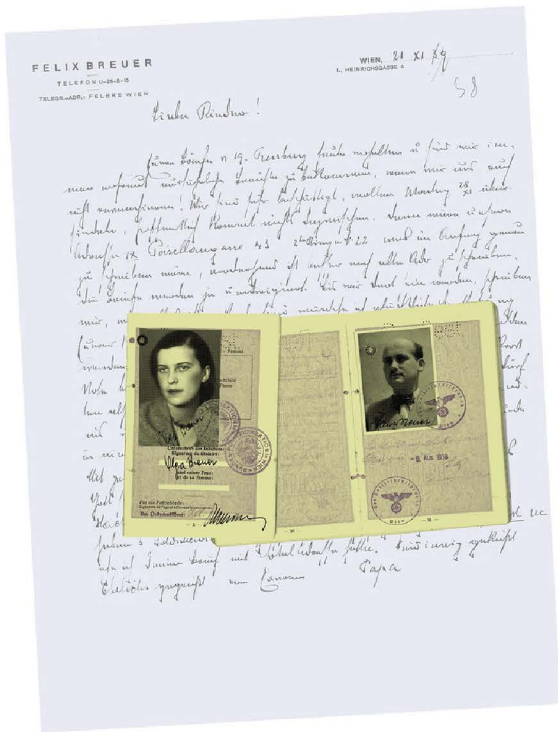
The CB&S factory specialized mainly in the production of custom-made ties, ladies pinafore dresses, scarves, napkins, tablecloths, aprons, and bedspreads. The business also owned a store in Croatia's capital city, Zagreb. CB&S products were exported to Yugoslavia, Rumania, Sweden and England. The Breuer business even managed to thrive during the Depression years. After the death of his father Ernst in 1936, twenty-eight-year-old Karl Breuer took over and ably ran the factory as a flourishing enterprise. By the late 1930s, the young and gregarious Karl and Ilsa Breuer became the new center of the Bohemia family, owners of a very productive business within a thriving industry. Textile production accounted for 360,000 jobs by 1935 and it continued to dominate northern Bohemia through the entire first half of the twentieth century. Carl Breuer & Söhne company records indicate that in 1939 the factory printed about 660,000 meters (772,000 yards) of fabrics.



Advertisement for a textile trade show in Dvur Králové, 1936. The town had fifteen textile factories.



CB&S product lines offered customers printed combinations of color, size, and pattern over a wide range of sample designs. Yearly style collections were introduced and product lines carried evocative names such as those shown here: *Lucerna* and *Tatra*.



Right: Marie and Felix Breuer, taking a stroll in Karlovy Vary while on vacation. They lived in Vienna at 86 Sechschimmelpgasse, and Felix kept an office on Heinrichsgasse, in the city's first district.

Hans, Olga and Felix, 2019, Screenprint, 37x30in

Austrian passports with Nazi administrative stamps belonging to the artist's grandparents, Hans and Olga Breuer. In 1938 they escaped Nazi subjugation fleeing to America, leaving behind their extended Breuer family, all of whom perished. A November 1938 farewell letter to departed son Hans was sent from Vienna by his father, Felix Breuer. Handwritten in old-fashioned Sütterlin script, it conveys the gravity of separation. Hans and Felix kept up a continuous written correspondence for nearly three years until the letters from Vienna ceased arriving in 1941.

Left: A 1939 postcard from Dvur Králové, sent by Marie and Felix Breuer to their son, Hans in Los Angeles. This was most likely one of their last visits with their Bohemia-based family.

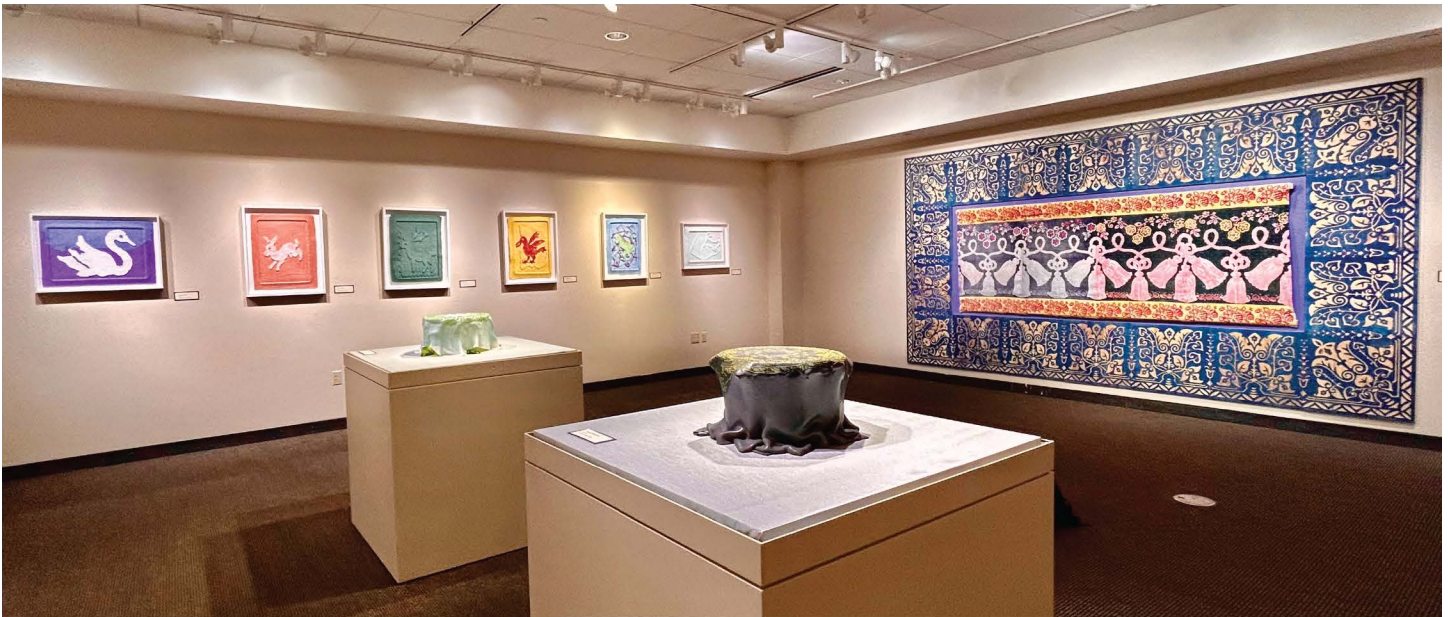


Jude Badge 1941

Printed at the former CB&S factory. This astounding irony, was not know to any of the surviving members of the Breuer family until 2016.



Noah Breuer creating the *Circus Folks & Badges* screenprint in Vallejo, California in 2019.



Installation of *Reclamation* exhibition at the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 2023

Noah Breuer

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Installation at Atelier Circulaire
Montreal, Québec, Canada



Noah Breuer (b. 1981) is an American artist from Berkeley, California. Breuer earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, his Master Fine Arts degree from Columbia University in New York City and a Graduate Research Certificate in traditional woodblock printmaking and paper-making from Kyoto Seika University in Japan.

Breuer's recent solo exhibitions include *Reclamation* at the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library (Cedar Rapids, Iowa 2023), *Table Settings* at Urban Glass (Brooklyn, New York, 2023), *Something Stolen / Something New* at Atelier Circulaire, (Montreal, Qubec, 2022).

His artist books have been published by the San Francisco Center for the Book, as well as, Small Editions in Brooklyn, New York. His work is in the permanent collections of the New York Public Library, Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, England.

Breuer works as an Assistant Professor and Print Media Area Head at the University at Buffalo, State University New York.

1892> Carl Breuer (b.1840) works in Vienna for Stern & Co, a woven textile business, connected to Bohemia based textile manufacturing through his father-in-law Herman Schnabel (b.1780)

1897> Carl Breuer, along with his sons Felix (b.1871) and Ernst (b.1872) begin a family owned business, *Carl Breuer & Söhne (CB&S)*, a textile trading company representing various cloth weaving, dying and printing textile factories in the Czech lands.

1902> *Carl Breuer & Söhne (CB&S)* establishes its own Bohemia based factory in Bilá Třemesná (Weis Třemeschna) near Trutov (Trautenau) near the large Schnabel in-laws textile enterprises.

1907> *Carl Breuer & Söhne (CB&S)* factory enlarges its production capacity by moving to Dvůr Kralové nad Labem (Königinhof an der Elbe) where company builds an expanded factory facility.

1907> Carl Breuer dies at Königinhof, leaving *CB&S* entirely to sons Felix and Ernst. Felix Breuer represents all *CB&S* sales in Vienna. His only son, Hans, is born in Vienna.

1908> Ernst Breuer runs the factory in Königinhof. His only son, Karl, is born in Königinhof.

1919> Felix Breuer continues to represent *CB&S* while selling his half ownership to brother Ernst. Felix, with office at Gonzagagasse 14 in Vienna's first district, begins to represent additional textile enterprises in Vienna. Felix's family live at Sechschimmelgasse 8-6 in Vienna's 9th district.

1926> Felix Breuer's son Hans begins a 3 year *CB&S* textile apprenticeship at Königinhof factory. By 1929 Hans is sent to work in Schnabel textile business in New York City, returning to Vienna in 1930.

1928> Felix Breuer becomes chief representative for Austria's large Voralberg based *Ganahl textile* factory with office and showrooms established at Heinrichgasse 4 in Vienna's first district.

1936> Ernst Breuer dies in Königinhof, leaves to his son Karl third generation *CB&S* ownership. Felix Breuer and his son Hans continue to represent the *Ganahl* textile company in Vienna.

1938> After the "Anschluss" Felix Breuer and son Hans lose their Vienna business. Hans Breuer, with wife and son Stephen flee Austria, departing Vienna on 6 September to join Karl Breuer family in Königinhof. Hans' family obtain American visas, departing Czechoslovakia for USA in late November. Hans and family arrive in Los Angeles in late December, the only Breuer family members to escape. Hans is frustrated in all efforts to rescue remaining Breuer relatives left behind in Europe.

1939> *CB&S* factory is seized, transferred to a Nazi trustee. Karl Breuer is kept on as factory foreman. Remaining Vienna Breuers lose their family homes, forced into crowded new housing.

1941> *CB&S* business is taken over in a forced sale to Nazi ownership Kramer & Effenberger.

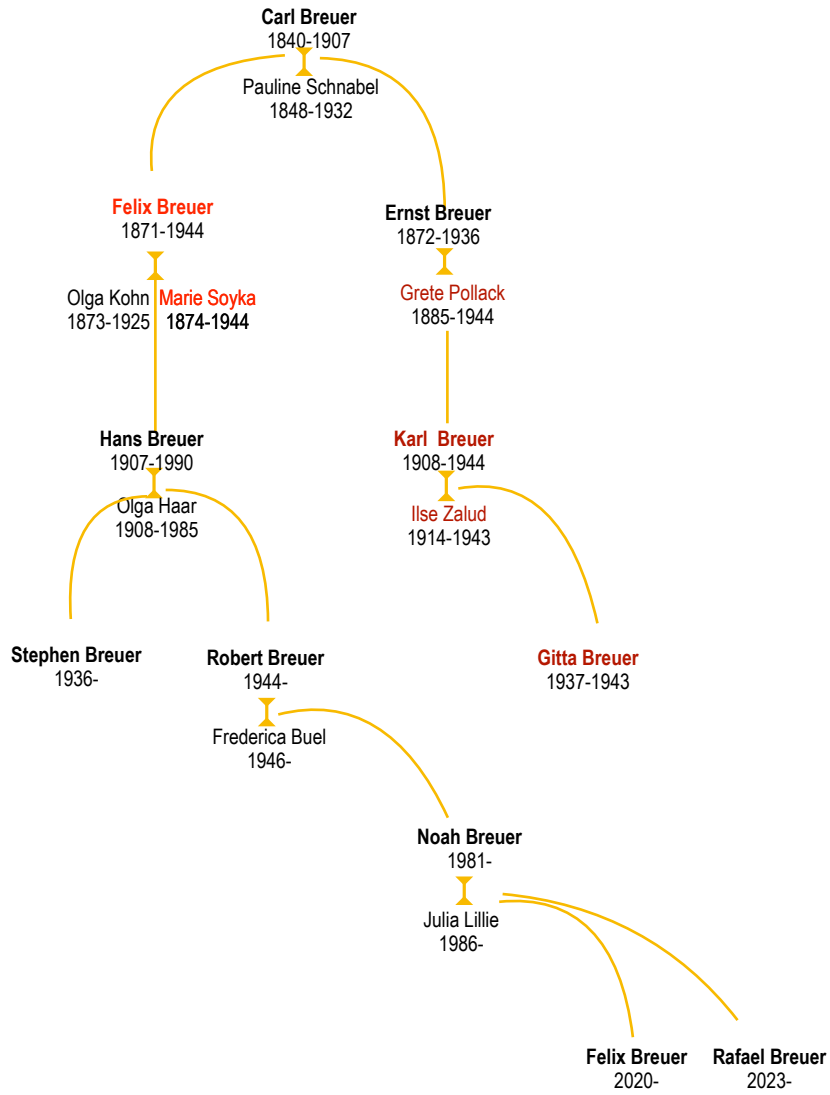
1942> Deportation of first Bohemia Breuer family members to Terezin camp and murder at Izbica. In Summer, Felix Breuer and other family members are deported from Vienna to Terezin.



1943> Deportation to Terezin of all remaining Czech Breuer family, transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and murdered there. Felix Breuer and wife Marie remain at Terezin.

1944> Felix and Marie Breuer sent on the last October Terezin-Auschwitz transport and murdered. Robert Breuer, first American Breuer is born in Los Angeles.

1945> Hans Breuer fails in efforts to recover *CB&S* post-war company control as factory status remains uncertain until its 1948 Czech Communist Party take-over and collectivization of the textile industry.

**CARL BREUER
DESCENDANTS**
Simplified family tree



-  Marriages
-  Death in deportation

Exhibition Specifications

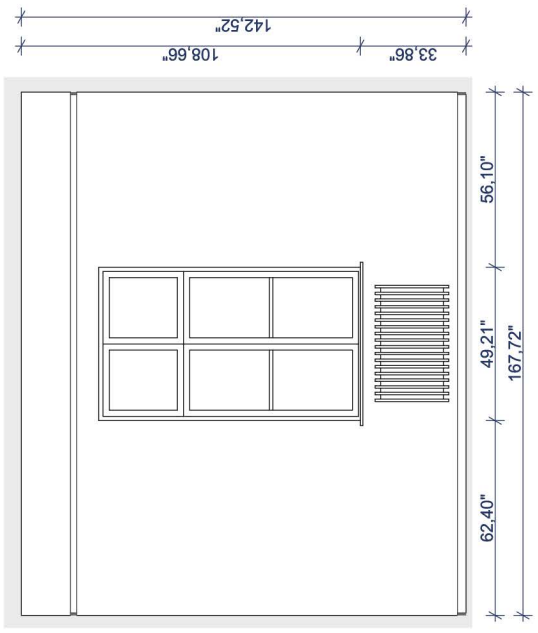
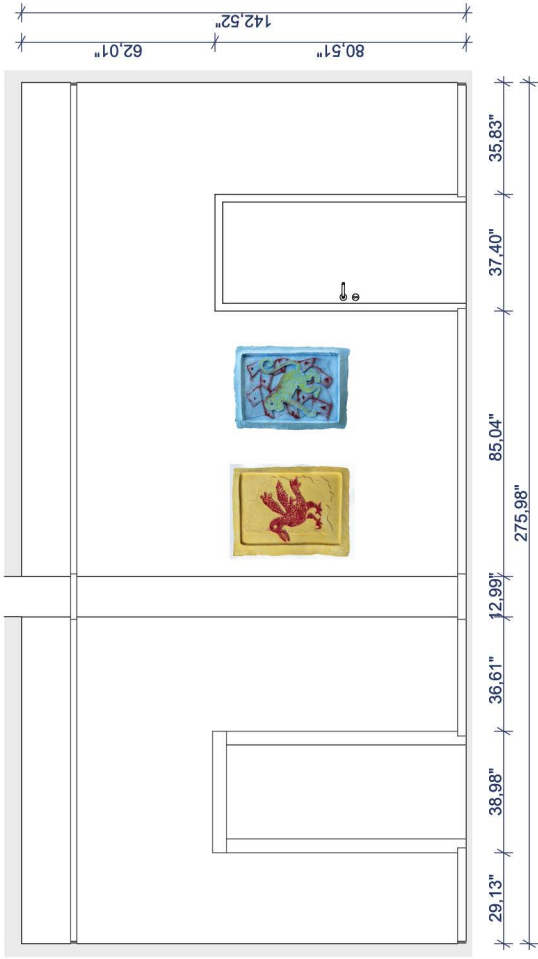
21 Artworks:

- 12 framed works on paper
- 1 Large Wall-mounted wooden instalation (Plywood-backed gallery wall required)
- 3 glass sculptures which require pedestools or platforms or table tops
- 2 wall-mounted glass sheets
- 3 wall-mounted fabrics which hang from curtian rods or wooden dowels

All artworks are foam packed in individual deluxe cardboard art boxes

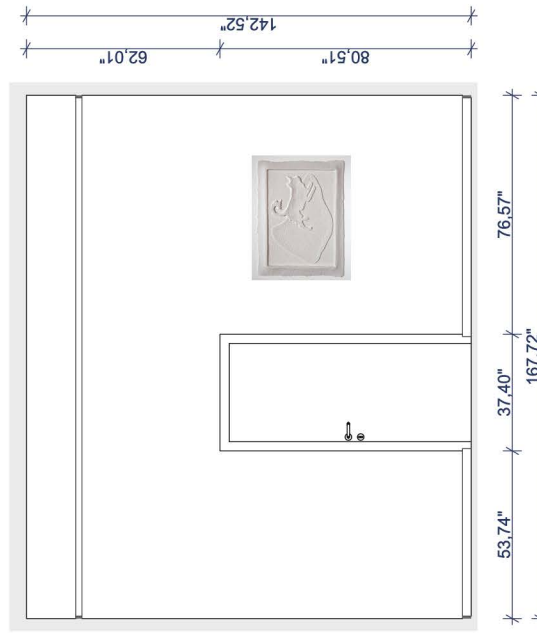
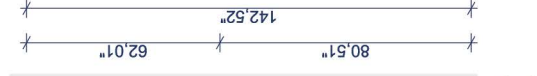
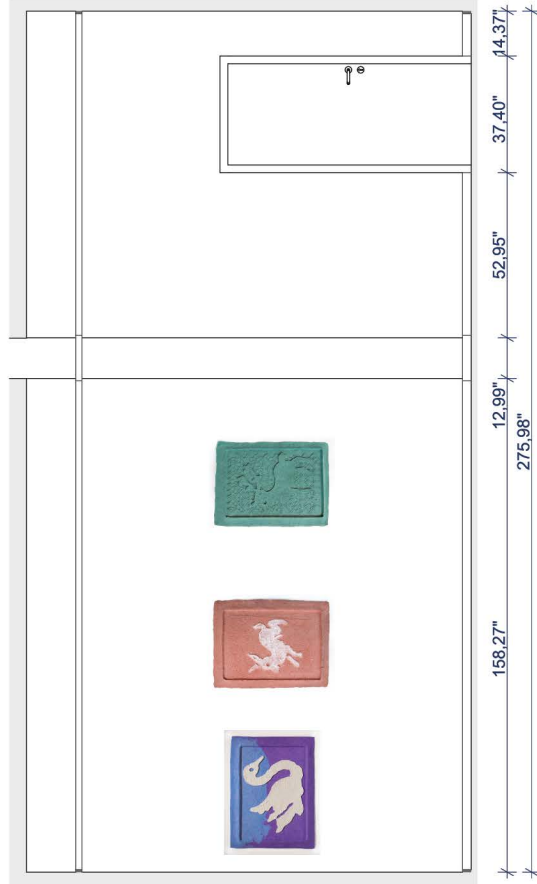
- 25-total packages: 23 boxes and 2 tubes
 - *See complete artwork info and shipping box specifics on next page.

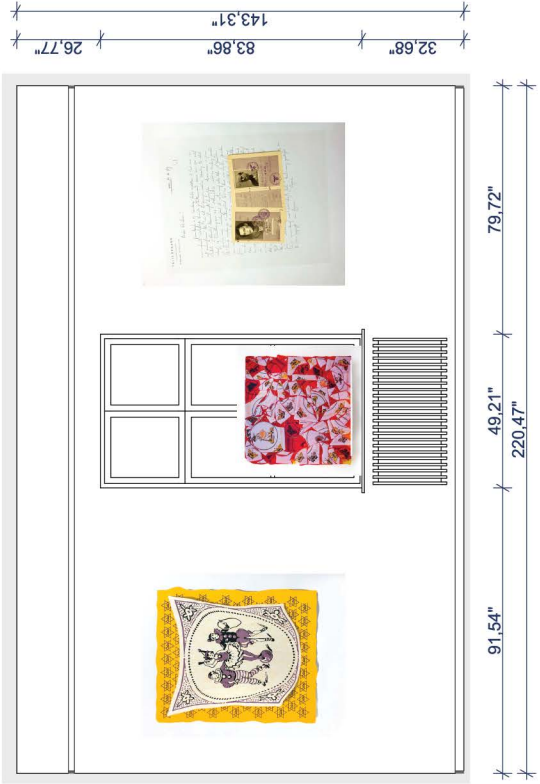
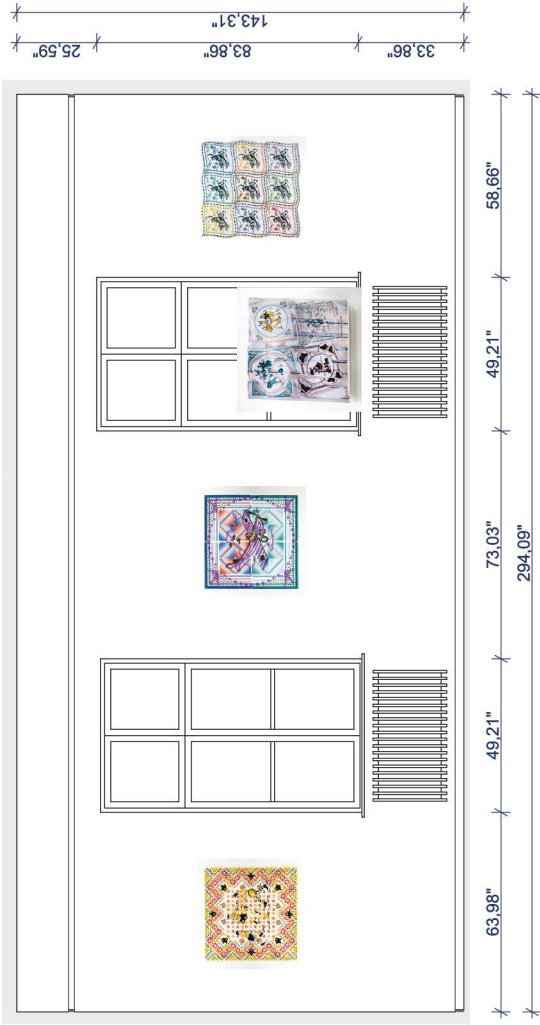




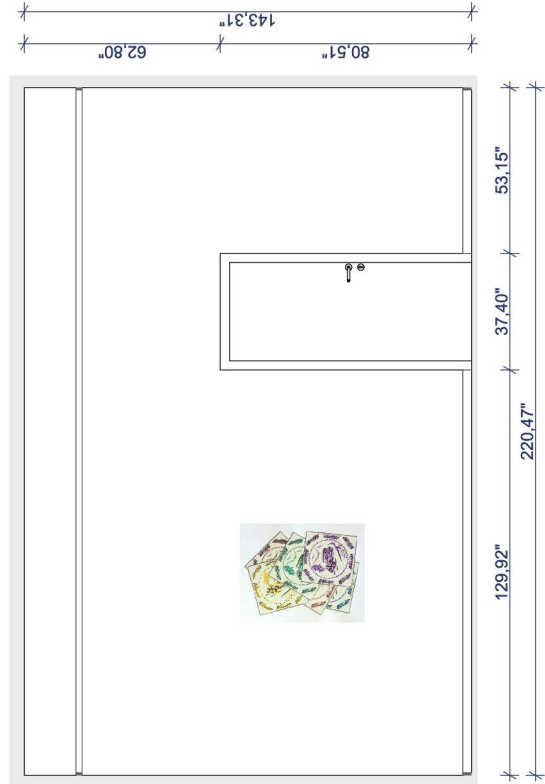
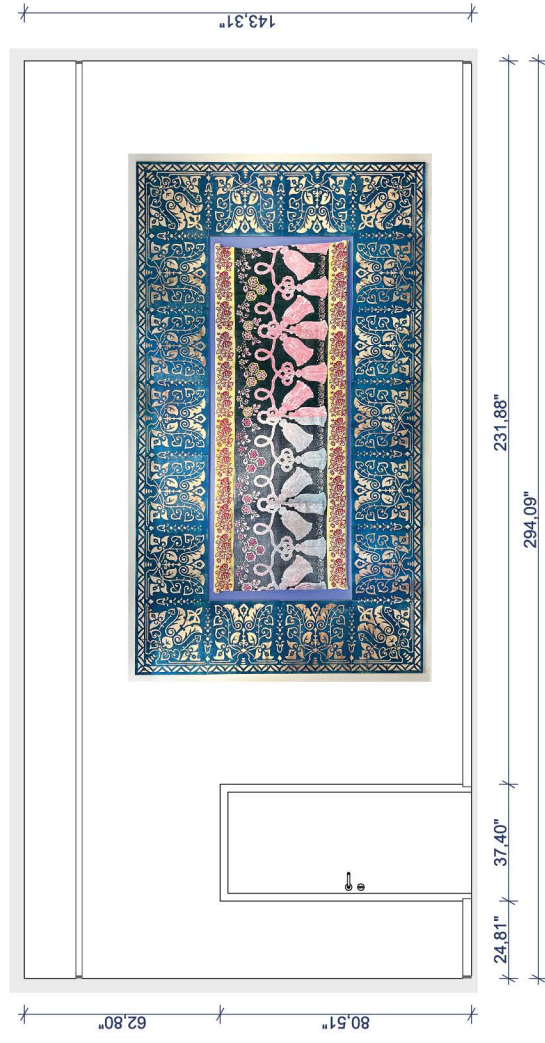
EXHIBITION ROOM 2.02

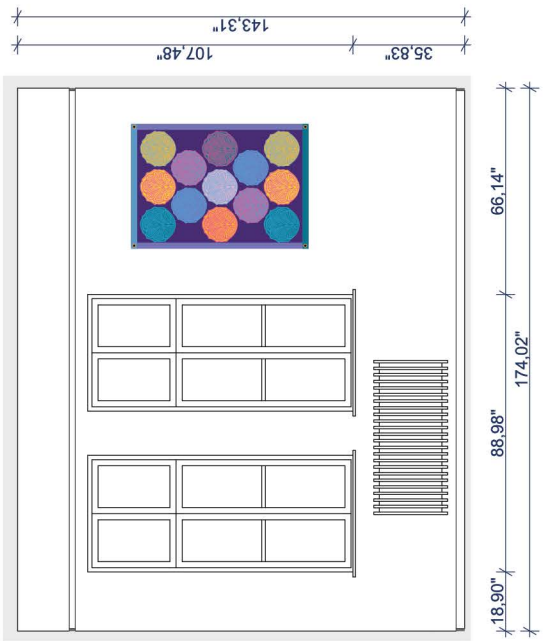
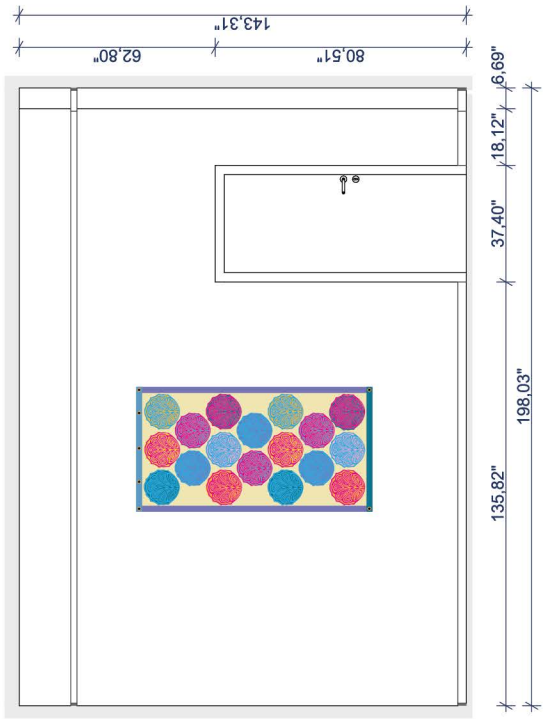
HAVLIČEK'S VILLA, BŘECLAV, CZ
EXHIBITION SPACE
VIEWS OF THE WALLS S 1:50





EXHIBITION ROOM 2.03





EXHIBITION ROOM 2.04

