

**JOHN CEDERQUIST****BLUTO'S DINER**

Mixed woods, epoxy resin, aniline dye, and lithography ink
2005

"His Magritte-like surrealistic blending of everyday objects, images from American cinema, and references to Japanese art are well seasoned with an ironic sense of American humor."



This large-scale cabinet by the California artist John Cederquist is from a series created during the first decade of this century based on the shapes of historic Japanese kosode. However, via trompe l'oeil imagery, Cederquist creates a kimono unlike any you may have seen. Inspired by sources as varied as Japanese woodblock prints and American animated films, he depicts noodles levitating out of a pot while a cartoon figure from *Popeye* pours coffee in a disorderly restaurant kitchen. Plates and cutlery threaten to careen off shelves that tip, suggesting a realistic fold in the fabric. Cederquist, one of the most talented members of his generation of studio furniture makers, is known for his ability to create exceptionally vivid pictorial representations in his inlaid and stained-wood furniture. His Magritte-like surrealistic blending of everyday objects, images from American cinema, and references to Japanese art are well seasoned with an ironic sense of American humor. This new acquisition has just debuted at RAM alongside one of the artist's chairs from the same decade.

BRUCE W. PEPICH

Executive Director and Curator of Collections
Racine Art Museum, Racine, Wisconsin