

Arty Act – Story Telling

Christine Druiitt-Preston *Lunch with Miss Olley – Arabesque 2019*

Lino block print on Wenzhou paper ed.5 editioned Brenda Tye 28 cm diameter

©Christine Druiitt-Preston, Courtesy Artsite Galleries, Sydney (Photograph: Document Photography)



This lino block print is one of a series I made called '*Lunch with Miss Olley*'.

The Australian artist Margaret Olley collected blue and white Willow Pattern dining china. The design on these plates combined people and animals in a Chinese scene to tell a story about star crossed lovers who were transformed into doves.

Whether you are familiar with the Willow Pattern story or are learning of it for the first time you may like to listen to this poem with music American singer songwriter, Jim Pryt.

Here is the link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot1PcsP9DjI> -

If you look carefully at my print ‘Lunch with Miss Olley – Arabesque’, can you find these objects?

- A small Degas bronze sculpture of a dancer performing an Arabesque is being watched from the doorway by a carved wooden Balinese dragon
- A bird is also there, perhaps pretending not to see, but aware of the little dancers’ beautiful movement all the same
- A chicken sits up high, roosting on top of a shelf accompanied by a carved tribal head, from I’m not sure where
- A basket of cones have been gathered and sits atop a pile of books
- A vase of poppies is joined by other vases of flowers surrounding the dancer on her table top stage

Is there a story to be found within the print ‘Lunch with Miss Olley – Arabesque’? What could it be? You might like to tell it to someone or write it down.

While you are doing this, you could listen to Debussy’s pieces of music called Arabesque 1 & 2.

To do that you can follow the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Fle2CP8gR0>



Detail of part of the Margaret Olley home studio re-creation

Margaret Olley Centre, Tweed Regional Gallery & Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW. Photograph by Christine Drutt-Preston © 2018