Artist: Mareva Minerbi

Title:
Shangri La La Land

Artwork Description
In and around the Dining Room and Lanai at Shangri La, Mareva Minerbi invokes the mesmerizing power and magic of fantasy. Characters come alive through orchestrated movements inspired by Shangri La, creating connections between conventional and unconventional forms.

Artist Statement
The Shangri La dining room is one of my favorite spaces. It is decorated with colorful tile work from Iran, French crystal chandeliers, ceramics from the 12th century in a striped and tented interior. On the Lanai, columns inspired by those found in ancient Persepolis frame Kaikos surf break's roaring ocean waves. It's easy to see why Doris Duke chose this place overlooking Lē'ahi as her winter hideaway. As I began to conceptualize my piece, I was inspired by different elements that conjure up the mesmerizing power and magic of the fantasy world. Shangri La's name was taken from the mystical and fictional utopia described in the novel Lost Horizon by British author James Hilton. While exploring Duke's collections, I came across Layla and Majnun by Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi, which tells the story of star-crossed lovers whose families from different tribes forbid them to be together. Majnun in Arabic means "mad," and to a large extent, the narrative poem recounts his heartbreak and subsequent descent into madness. Furthermore, Hana Yoshihata's painting on display in the dining room also evokes something otherworldly: constellations, galaxies, and Pō. I experimented with several different pieces of music to see which one both resonated well with the space and my concept. Inspired by Shangri La's splendor, the artwork, scenes from Majnun, I imagined a character in her dreamlike palace.

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