Artist: Maseeh Ganjali

Title: Poets and Art Makers; Importance of Poetry Represented on Artistic Treasures

Artwork Description
Beginning in the Private Garden, joyful in spirit and grounded in the generosity of his Iranian heritage, Ganjali shares the ways in which Shangri La--with its rich collection of cultural resources--is a place of inspiration and discovery.

Artist Statement
Shangri La is a magical place. Every time I enter it, I’m enchanted again; just as I was the first time seventeen years ago. The museum itself and the people I’ve met there through the years have certainly been an inspiration to me and have helped to shape the person and artist I am today.

Shangri La’s collection consists of thousands of objects, carefully put together to create a home that Doris Duke could enjoy herself. In turn, her joy is shared with us and those who have the pleasure of experiencing it through tours, programs, events, and residencies.

Of all the objects in the collection, some are stored away for carefully considered reasons and most visitors won’t have the chance to see them up close. A few months ago, while researching for the writing of my next play, the museum staff was gracious enough to allow me a glimpse into a few of their hidden gems that pertain to my play. Both objects highlighted in my video are from those visits. These particular artworks moved me strongly because of their artistic quality, cultural importance, the stories associated with them, and the stories they tell.

I hope this short video encourages you to look at these artworks with a new understanding and sparks more questions for the future.

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