

CHERISHED, Indeed

The Tactile Mind Weekly #9

17 June 2003

Coffee Shop Notes

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In the booth featuring artwork by Connie Clanton in the Visual Artist Studio area at last summer's NAD convention, one picture stood out from the rest: an engraved print entitled CHERISHED.

An androgynous figure with large luminous eyes signing, "cherish" is the central focus in this neoclassical composition. Surrounding the signer is a handful of illustrations depicting the busts of historical figures in our Deaf World. The domed outline invokes a feeling of antiquity while whimsical doodles meander across the lower half, almost as if it were a display of the artist's mediation.

Key elements in this softly detailed image are the faded blue and ochre washes, an asymmetrical placement of simple columns, and the sketchy quality of line marks, which create an air of sentimentality. CHERISHED is a fine specimen of what could be considered a cultural affirmation in DeVIA, the difference being that Audist experiences are not the focus of the message. It also veers away from the trademark bold or primary colors said to be a characteristic of DeVIA, and would look very nice in private collections or homes that tend toward cottage or eclectic tastes.

For this edition of CHERISHED, Clanton produced 50 prints. The featured convention sale price was \$110.

CHERISHED, by Connie Clanton <http://www.thetactilemind.com/TTMWeekly/connie.html> [Close-up detail of the image. NOTE: screen resolution does not allow for full appreciation]

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