

Dragons Fly

Asian folding screen and curious cat

Media: Intaglio etching, chine collé (see definition tab) and colored pencil

Dimensions: image 24" x 14.25"; framed 33.5" x 26.5"

For sale at: [Dragons Fly by Marcia DeFalco | PAGG Art](#)

Background story: I don't know why, but I have always liked dragons. I have drawn them, made wood cuts of them, painted them, and sculpted them. Some of my dragons are Medieval, others are Asian in style. In this piece my dragons are a work of whimsy mimicking dragonflies that can light on even wispy plants.

This work is a triptych inspired by the Japanese folding screen, *byobu*, which are usually made of paper or silk. Byobu are often used as room dividers but are esteemed for their unique art and especially for scenes from folklore, history, and nature. This piece is at once evocative of Japanese paper screens and is printed with an intricate design calling to mind heavily embroidered oriental silks.

On the farm where I grew up, we had many, many cats. They lived in the barns and outbuildings catching vermin that otherwise would eat the grain we fed our livestock. Every year there would be a new litter or two. When my father milked our cows, he would always splash fresh milk into a large tin plate and cats would come from all around to lap it up.

The black cat in this work represents a creature with magical powers—the link between the mundane world of the barnyard cat and the realm of myth and of flying dragons. The cat is made from *chine collé*—a papermaking technique that originated in China—and is adhered to the piece as the last stage of the print-making process.

Amelia Island: After I moved here, I immediately recognized this as a dog lovers' island. Then I began making friends and realized that it is also an incredibly cat friendly island. At a recent art show, a woman saw this piece and immediately identified with it because she had three black cats. This piece is right at home on Amelia Island.

Nature Facts: The branches on the screens are impressed leaves of Creeping Charlie or ground ivy. I first discovered this plant in my yard and was delighted with its lace-edged and delicate leaves. Then my husband told me it was an invasive weed. I still like its look but there is none of it in our lawn today.