

Information

13 December 1990

Millbank, London SW1P 4RG
Telephone 071-821 1313
Fax 071-931 7512

TATE GALLERY CHRISTMAS TREE

On Display 14 December 1990 - 6 January 1991

Decorations by Lisa Milroy

Lisa Milroy is the third artist to decorate the Tate Gallery Christmas Tree, following Bill Woodrow in 1988 and Tim Head in 1989. She has chosen to paint groups of traditional Christmas decorations, using standard festive colours. Milroy is best known for her paintings of ordered sequences of everyday objects, which she depicts again and again, against a neutral ground, until through repetition she feels she really knows them.

Milroy (b.1959) has always accorded mundane objects and implements the closest attention to detail and was impressed, on a recent visit to Japan, by a similar response there to ordinary things. She also noted the closeness in Japanese calligraphy of the characters to the objects and meanings they represent. Her decorations reflect these perceptions and mark a return to the individual object seen as a still life.

Each one is painted on both sides of the canvas, echoing a double-sided Japanese print of a woman seen from the back and front that Milroy remembers admiring at the British Museum. In a similar manner, she has made her decorations as visible as possible through their double-sidedness. By this convention Milroy suggests the objects in space, while also asserting their flatness as painted images.

The decoration of the Christmas Tree is supported by the Patrons of New Art.

The tree has been generously donated by Clifton Nurseries.