

Home is Where the Art is!

by Gloria Partridge

Last summer long before lockdown or Corona virus was part of our everyday vocabulary, when Arts Society members could meet up each month to exchange views on the wonderful lectures we were privy to, I was invited by the BBC to take part in the second series of 'Home Is Where The Art Is' presented by Nick Knowles. The brief which I had submitted to the programme planners was 'to celebrate my return to Shropshire to be near my daughter and two granddaughters'. Not only was I able to commission a bespoke piece of art, it was also an exciting opportunity to go behind the scenes to find out just what went into the filming of these programmes. The two cameramen who came to my home to film me with my girls couldn't have been nicer and they were just brilliant with my granddaughters Irah and Beau who were eight and six when filming took place. The echo of Irah's words saying 'do we really have to plant the daffodil bulbs again!' still ring in my ears. At least we now knew how many takes were needed to create a scene that lasted a minute or two.

I don't know if you are familiar with the programme but three artists who I have never met spent a day in my home working out what sort of person I am and what type of art I like. One of them decided I was Italian, probably because of the large number of Italian themed art works and books I have. But they all agreed it was rather difficult to decide exactly what my taste in art was as my collection is so eclectic. My daughter Kate and I then had to travel to the studio in Manchester to meet the artists so that they could present their ideas to me for the art work. I chose the painter and wood sculptor to make their pieces which they had to complete in a month. Kate and I then went back to Manchester for the 'big reveal' and to choose which piece I was going to take home. What an unexpected emotional moment it was. When the sculpture was unveiled Kate and I just looked at each other and wept, that is what art can do to you. Needless to say that was the piece that came home with us. It was an amazing experience for all of us to be a part of and we eagerly but nervously waited for the programme to be broadcast. The four of us sat together on the sofa last week to watch it and were thrilled with how it had been sympathetically edited and we were all delighted to have been part of a really enjoyable programme. We had created memories that will last a lifetime.

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