

Duluth Living Room

- Truth: Mrs. Prindle, the previous owner of this room received nearly all of the furnishings from this room from Bradstreet, an early benefactor of the MIA. Much like today, styles go out of fashion, but rather than updating this room with new furniture, Mrs. Prindle kept her furniture and created her own labels for everything, much like a museum.
- Lie: One stipulation in acquiring this room was that the Prindle family would be allowed, once a year, to host a party in this room for their family. This allows them to be among their childhood possessions and experience it as Mom/Grandma/Great Grandma would have had it. (Point out a stain or two as evidence that it's used for this)

Erminia and the Shepherds

- Truth: The art market has always had complicated price structures. This particular artist would price his works by the figure. His typical going rate was 100 ducats for a full figure, 75 for 3/4, and 50 for 1/2. So as you can see here there are several children in the piece because they were cheaper and there are not many adults because they would have been more expensive.
- Lie: The armor depicted in the painting is an actual suit of armor and it's still in good condition. It went up for sale a few years ago and the museum attempted to acquire it, because it would make a lovely companion piece for the painting. They were unfortunately unable to get it because of a notable armor hoarder outbid them.

Christ Driving the Money Changers

- Truth: The four gentlemen depicted at the bottom were 3 artistic luminaries that El Greco looked up to, but the clearest figure was his roommate, Giulio Clovio, who helped El Greco acquire lodging when he first arrived in Italy. Clovio was a friend of the much younger El Greco, the celebrated Greek artist from Crete, who later worked in Spain. Greco painted two portraits of Clovio; one shows the four painters whom he considered as his masters, in this order: Titian, Michelangelo, Clovio, Raphael. Clovio was also known as *Michelangelo of the miniature*. Books with his miniatures became famous primarily due to his skilled illustrations. He was persuasive in transferring the style of Italian high Renaissance painting into the miniature format.
- Lie: This was painted during a time when El Greco was going through some marital trouble. The symbolism is evident throughout: the carelessness with money, the broken eggs symbolizing impurity, his wife is depicted in the same colors and fashion as Jesus, who's preparing to strike her; and the four people in the corner were his legal counsel and witnesses. In 1570, women were not allowed legal counsel so his wife's were not depicted.

Charleston Dining and Drawing Rooms

- Truth: This is a story about the Swamp Fox. Lt. Col. Francis Marion attended a party, wanted to leave early and defenestrated through a window breaking his ankle. (This room is on the second floor.) Leaving Charleston to seek medical treatment, he was one of the few Continental Army officers to escape the British advance and later became the guerrilla fighter, the Swamp Fox. (Portrayed by Leslie Nielson in a Walt Disney mini-series.)
- Lie: This home was the staging ground and hosted a continental army garrison during the American Revolutionary war. James Ford Bell was an extremely patriotic benefactor to the museum and for that reason, he wanted a piece of strategic history and so purchased this house to accompany the silver work of Paul Revere.

Tatra Automobile

- Truth: The Tatra car was favored by German officers during the Third Reich. Due to reckless driving and multiple fatalities while driving on the Autobahn, Hitler eventually banned his officers from driving the car.
- Lie: The Tatra is evidence of the sordid tale of Wes Gustafson's automobile counterfeiting ring that was broken up out of Eagan. The Regis Corporation bought the car at a liquidation sale after his assets were forfeited.

Chinese Export Porcelain

- Truth: Europeans loved the porcelains that were produced in China. But because they could not initially decipher the proper recipe for porcelain, it was once considered as valuable as gold.
- Lie: The sparrow hawks would have adorned a dining table next to place settings. These were created during a time when people expected art to "do something." These sparrow hawks actually make the sounds of the birds when you alternately cover the holes and blow into them.