

You are looking at *The Printseller's Window*, a large oil on canvas by British artist Walter Goodman. *The Printseller's Window*, painted around 1883, is 52 inches high by 44 inches wide and is in a simple dark wood frame. This hyper-realistic painting portrays a cluttered display window of a printseller's shop seen as if you were standing on the street peering in through the window frame. An older man, who wears wire-rimmed spectacles and has a thick, yellow-gray beard and mustache, appears toward the back on the right side of the painting. You see him from the waist up, standing in an opening at the back of the display window, staring intently at the small statue of a reclining figure that he holds in his hands.

Starting from the foreground of the painting, the floor of the display window is covered with etchings and lithographic prints of various sizes. Two open books and numerous smaller prints are arranged on top of these prints. In the center, a turquoise and brown pottery dish, partly filled with copper and silver coins, rests on top of one stack of prints. On the far right a circular, rose-colored image of a female figure contrasts with the other black and white prints.

In the middle-ground of the painting, raised about a foot above the floor of the display window, a narrow wooden shelf extends across the width of the window. The shelf is lined with objects, which we describe here from left to right. The first object on our left is a green glass tankard with a hinged, pewter lid. Next, we see a white and blue, gold-rimmed teacup and saucer. To the right of the teacup is a slim terracotta-colored Greek vase that is twice as tall as the teacup. In the center of the shelf is a portrait of a bearded gentleman in a rustic frame. A large magnifying glass is propped up against the left side of the frame, enlarging a detail. Crowded next to the frame and only half as high, is a short glass vase. It is partly covered by a small black and white photograph leaning against it. A strand of pearls, which is wrapped around the base of the vase, runs behind the photograph. Two short loops of the pearl necklace dangle off the edge of the shelf. Behind the pearls and to the right is a clear etched glass vase. A miniature oval portrait is perched between this and a small teal-colored vase with raised white designs. This vase is

similar in shape to the terracotta vase on the left. The last object on this shelf is a statue of an armless nude child.

If you look about 15 inches above the shelf, a string is stretched across the center of the window. A dozen small photographic portraits called *cartes-de-visites* are clipped to the string. Ten are portraits of men and two of women. All are in formal poses. Above the line of cards, on the left side of the window, a booklet with curled paper pages hangs on a string from a nail. A burgundy colored curtain is draped three-quarters of the way across the top and down the right side of the window. The background color of the interior walls of the display window are green; these are also covered with prints. The man seen through the opening in the back wall appears to be the printseller because he is standing inside the shop; prints and small objects can be seen in the distance behind him.

Walter Goodman, a Victorian artist, lived from 1838 to 1912. *The Printseller's Window* was purchased by the Memorial Art Gallery thanks to the Marion Stratton Gould Fund.

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