Symbols of luck and fertility pervade Nolan’s print, which she views as a type of amulet or lucky charm. The heart on the top right is a Mexican symbol of luck. The nude figure on the left is Diana, Greek moon goddess of abundance, fertility and childbirth. Even the wallpaper, used as a linking device for the image, is intended to symbolise domesticity and femaleness. It is infused with memory and place, coming from the former home of two inseparable sisters, who lived together all their lives. The symbols on the top left of the print are from the notebooks of the Spanish artist, Joan Miro (1893-1983), and are part of a language he created to tell stories, meaning that to unlock these hidden narratives, one must understand his symbols. The choice of the Three Graces, who were Greek goddesses of charm, beauty, nature, creativity and fertility, as the focal point of the work, was partly inspired by the death at the age of nine of the artist’s niece, Grace.

The process of printmaking allows Nolan to create multiple copies of the one image, although the prints are never identical. This is the third of an edition of fifteen prints of the same image. To produce an etching, the artist creates an image on a metal plate. The plate is placed on a sheet of paper and put through a printing press under great pressure, so that the image is transferred to the sheet in reverse.

Nora Hickey, Curator of Education + Collections, Lewis Glucksman Gallery