



THE NINES ART COLLECTION

BACKGROUNDER

A brand new collection of contemporary art is about to debut in Portland, Oregon. Instead of being housed at a gallery or museum, these works will be available for all to enjoy at the Nines, a new Starwood Luxury Collection Hotel opening this fall in the landmark Meier & Frank building. Assembled by renowned Art Consultant Paige Powell and Sage Hospitality, which owns and operates the Nines, the extraordinary 419-piece collection of commissioned works will be displayed throughout the hotel, including the lobby, atrium, restaurants, and The Library as well as each of the 331 guest rooms.

A Portland native and close friend of Pop Art legend Andy Warhol, Powell has worked with Sage to ensure that each of the prominent regional artists involved with the project receives full recognition by placing standard museum identification by each piece and commissioning a full catalog of the collection so that guests may fully appreciate their surroundings.

Additionally, each guest room at the Nines will feature striking original artwork created from a partnership between the hotel and the Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA). As part of its commitment to the project, the Nines is also funding an annual scholarship at PNCA of \$10,000 for five years.

Among many noteworthy works that will greet guests at the Nines:

- Hap Tivey's ever-changing *Pearl Moon* light sculpture uses LEDs and natural light from its setting near the elevator entrance on the ground floor. As the light changes throughout the day, so does the work, which is never viewed exactly the same way.
- Ivan McLean created a 56-foot sculpture made of glass and wood from fallen trees. *Sanctuary* elegantly separates the lobby from the modern steakhouse, Urban Farmer on the eighth floor.
- Storm Tharp's color drawing and watercolor of Clark Gable will capture the Hollywood legend from his days as a tie salesman at the Meier & Frank flagship store in the 1920s. The artist is also creating a sculpture of 2.5-foot stiletto shoes with hot pink soles on a shiny black epoxy box – called *Snakes*.

- Manya Shapiro turned an eye toward the Meier & Frank building's fashionable past and created three life-size gown sculptures from mesh and recycled screen doors.
- Ellen George designed *Bloom*, a piece fabricated by Bullseye Glass in which bold shapes and rich colors are composed upon six vertical glass panels that are overlapped and staggered on three different planes. The piece will stand behind the reception desk – all 15-by-9 feet of it. George consulted the floor plans, elevations and furniture arrangement of the hotel in detail before creating this custom piece.
- Jessica Bonin painted ten portraits of the old Meier & Frank building from photos she found researching at local libraries. These will be hung in the Georgian Room off the lobby, which will pay homage to a tea room in the department store that used to host high tea for young girls and their mothers.
- Melody Owen designed a grand stairwell chandelier created by Elements Glass for the 8th floor grand stairwell. Called *Bird Song*, the chandelier uses glass, LEDs and steel for a 30-foot hanging structure with 11 strands to illustrate the audio waves of bird songs from the Pacific Northwest.
- The video artist Matt McCormick created an abstract work of images from around Portland to be displayed on LCD panels in the hotel's restaurant, Urban Farmer. The piece will change very subtly and slowly over the course of the day, for entrances as intriguing as departures.
- In The Library, 19 pieces consisting of photographs, watercolors, oil on paper, cartoon (oil stick on paper) painted postcards and a formal painting will adorn this elegant space alongside 3,000 books. Local artists contributing to the project include Gus Van Sant, cartoonist John Callahan and painter Chris Johanson. Guests should be sure to look for art by Mickalene Thomas in particular, whose inspiration comes from sources including women, album covers, art history and her memories of growing up in the 1970s.
- The hotel tapped a team of 11 faculty and master printers at PNCA, along with student assistants, to create abstract monotype and silkscreen images of varying sizes, textures and elements for every guest room in the hotel. The monotypes utilize materials such as crumpled paper to create textured shapes, while the silkscreen prints build imagery through a series of circles and rectangles, creating optical art.

For more information or to make reservations for the Nines in Portland, please phone 503.222.9996 or visit www.thenines.com

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