

## THE FINE ART OF HOSPITALITY

### Addition of Texas artwork re-colors the face of Alden Houston

Already a favorite among business and leisure travelers, Houston's most luxurious boutique hotel sets out to blend its unique historical appeal with a palette of contemporary Texas artists. Think of it as rejuvenation of art and form.

HOUSTON, October 8, 2010...Alden Houston has always been a gem in the heart of downtown and a property keen on showing that hospitality is indeed an art form. Now, the historical building steeped in Texas history, deepens its historical and cultural roots; unveiling the work of four prominent Texas artists, part of a renovation project which was embarked upon when the hotel was acquired by its new owners. The Texas art collection is a visual feast for guests of the hotel, which is situated squarely in the heart of Houston's performing arts district.

Lead by the hotel's GM, Hans Schmitt, the renovation project aims to preserve historical harmony while adding contemporary flair. Schmitt considers the collection of Texas artists an important step in the hotel's continued renovation. Paying homage to the hotel's rich historical tradition, Schmitt selected artwork by Texas natives, M.Y. Williams, Kim Coulter Gwen Bell, and Sylvia Angeli. "We want to showcase art that will be organically enriching to the ultra-modern style that is the essence of the hotel," commented Schmitt. "Houston is a vibrant cultural arts city and we feel the hotel should reflect its hometown." The art collection crosses many mediums including metal sculpture; paintings and digital— but all Texas bred.

The spirit of Texas rises again as captured through the eyes of Austin artist, **Kim Coulter**, an established representational painter who loves painting what she calls the fleeting moments across beautiful vistas. "Wild Horses," a massive painting of running horses flanks one of the hotel lobby walls—a move designed to reinvigorate the hotel's Texas origins. Coulter's work can also be seen in the newly transformed signature Texas-themed corner suite with hardwood floors, and magnificent light captured from views of both downtown and Minute Maid Park. Three of Coulter's western works are featured in the suite--



"Lone Rider One," "Lone Rider Two," and "Good Company."





In stark contrast to the western art is the unique metal sculptures of M.Y. Williams, a Houston artist, whose three custom metal pieces measuring 5', 6' and 7' greet guests immediately upon entering the lobby. Influenced by the work of Cy Twombly, Alberto Giacometti, Eva Hesse, Robert Rauschenberg and Ralph Rucci, Williams' art appeals to both the contemporary collector and the traditional collector. "I find it interesting that my work is neither feminine- nor masculine-looking, but men and women both appreciate it.

Self-taught Dallas native **Gwen Bell** contributes two vivid oil paintings entitled "Asparagus" and "Green Apples," both of which are created in a style that can be described as Modern Impressionism meets Realism. Her direct approach to capturing life's simple candid moments gives her work a quality of freshness and clarity. Bell's art is part of a digital collection in the hotel's new private dining room.



Also featured in the digital art collection is Houston's own Sylvia Angeli, named as Southwest Magazine's 2006 "Artist to Watch." Two of her oil paintings, entitled "Love Affair" and "Embrace," portray the captivating sensuality and mystery of fruit can be seen in the private dining room and in the new Sam Bar. A true believer that "travel is good for the soul," Angeli draws inspiration from her exploration of distant lands and the confluence of culture and influence. Sylvia has studied at Sam Houston State, Rice University and the prestigious Glassell School of Art in Houston.

As part of the hotel's eighty three-year history of luxurious hospitality, Alden Houston remains committed to distinguishing itself as the city's foremost boutique hotel—one that treasures the rich experience of art, life and Texas culture for its guests. Guests are encouraged to immerse themselves in the hotel's digital art, traditional and mixed media painting, and sculpture; all of which blend to create a unique art space in the heart of downtown. Picasso once said "give me a museum and I'll fill it." In this case, perhaps Picasso would prefer a boutique hotel.

Hotel Alden is a 97-room luxury boutique property conveniently located to downtown businesses, blocks from the Houston Theatre District, George R. Brown Convention Center and Toyota Center. It is less than two blocks from the METRO rail, which connects downtown to the Museum District, Reliant Center and the Medical Center. Rooms start at \$329. To book or room or inquire about a stay visit [www.aldenhotels.com](http://www.aldenhotels.com) or call 832-200-8800.