



PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Local Artists Selected for Permanent Art Collection at Hotel Verdant

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The Racine Art Museum (RAM) and ArtRoot have partnered to curate a permanent art collection comprising original artwork by 22 Racine and Kenosha area artists for Hotel Verdant in downtown Racine, Wisconsin. This collection will be on display throughout the main floor lobby and bookshelves; the elevator lobbies of the second, third, and fourth floors; and the presidential suite.

RAM and ArtRoot are pleased to announce the following artists have been selected for inclusion in the Hotel Verdant Permanent Art Collection:

- René Amado (photography)
- Lisa Marie Barber (painting)
- Jerrold Belland (painting)
- Lisa Bigalke (graphics and embroidery)
- Trace Chiodo (photography)
- Martha Coaty (photography)
- Deedee Dumont (sculpture)
- Justin Gottfredsen (ceramics)
- Nate Hunter (ceramics)
- Jarvis Lawson (photography)
- Brad Lee (sculpture)
- Diane Levesque (painting)
- Alex Mandli (ceramics)

- Holly Wolf-Mattick (glass)
- Dennis Motl (wood)
- Amanda Cosgrove Paffrath and Dan Sviland (glass)
- Bill Reid (sculpture)
- Jim Sincock (photography)
- Harold Solberg (wood)
- Scott Terry (mixed media)
- Maggie Venn (mixed media)

The Hotel Verdant Permanent Art Collection represents some of the leading artists in Racine and Kenosha across various career stages. 10 represented artists are past recipients of a RAM Artist Fellowship Award—a prestigious program that fosters artists’ continued artistic and professional development. Over half of the 22 artists are current or former educators from public, private, and parochial schools in the area, including the University of Wisconsin–Parkside and Carthage College.

Print reproductions of works from RAM’s permanent collection—featuring three images each by artists Robert Burkert and Ruth Grotenrath—will hang in the Hotel’s guest rooms. Two original intaglio prints by Frances Myers depicting local Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings will also be in the Presidential suite. Burkert and Myers were both born and raised in Racine and came to international prominence for their work in the printmaking medium. Grotenrath was a lifelong Milwaukee resident who taught classes at RAM’s Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts and had a long relationship with the museum.

The works in the Hotel Verdant Permanent Art Collection align with the Hotel’s focus on environmental and community sustainability and complement the Hotel’s “hygge” aesthetic by:

- speaking to environmental issues and concerns in the natural and built environment;
- incorporating natural and recycled materials and striving to repurpose waste products;
- promoting cohesion and community pride by expressing diverse conceptions of community and place;
- evincing a high level of craft and enhancing the Hotel’s interior design.

The selected works represent a range of styles and media and have been curated into groupings that share formal elements and subject matter while displaying different materials, textures, sizes, and dimensions.



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Dominion Properties, the developer of Hotel Verdant, considered artwork from local artists that matched the Hotel's theme and aesthetic—among other criteria. Dominion selected the final pieces for their permanent collection after two rounds. Full-time staff at RAM, selection committee members, and their spouses were ineligible to have their work considered for inclusion.

### **Racine Art Museum (RAM)**

Racine Art Museum in downtown Racine is home to the largest contemporary craft collection in North America, and has a reputation for its award-winning architecture and nationally recognized exhibition program. The museum plays a vital role in arts education through RAM's Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, which has offered community outreach programs and studio art classes since the 1940s. Further information is available on the RAM website, [ramart.org](http://ramart.org).

### **ArtRoot**

ArtRoot is a committee of artists and arts advocates who aim to reinvigorate Racine through the arts. ArtRoot initiates and manages projects that focus on building arts infrastructure, fostering connections, and facilitating collaborations among artists, arts organizations, community groups, businesses, and government. For more information: [artroot.org](http://artroot.org)