

INNS OF
AURORA
RESORT & SPA



Art Collection Guide



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Aurora illustrations by Maria Epine.

Left: *Desires (detail)*, Hal Larsen.

Front Cover: *K Series Green*, Gloria Garfinkel.

Over 250 pieces of exceptional contemporary art from the personal collection of our founder, Pleasant T. Rowland, hang throughout the Inns of Aurora.

This extraordinary collection—including works by noted artists Romare Bearden, Chuck Close, Wayne Theibaud, Helen Frankenthaler, and David Hockney, among others—graces every guestroom, parlor, hallway, and bathroom throughout the resort, infusing each space with harmony, color, and creativity.

Emotion Remembered

Forty years ago, I walked up the main staircase at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to find waiting for me at the top a painting so radiantly beautiful that I can close my eyes today and still see it clearly. The enormous canvas that hung at the end of that long formal space shimmered with intense color and inner light so luminous that it looked like a giant emerald. In fact, like all great paintings, it was a precious jewel—the priceless gift to me, to all who would see it, of a superb artist. That moment, that painting, that gift changed my understanding of art and the way I “saw” forever after.

Until then, I had had two separate and distinct reactions to art. One was intellectual—a response of the head that assessed the skill, the craft, the talent of the artist and his place in the history of art; the other, emotional—a response of the heart that I believed was a result of the painting’s subject matter. But on that evening in Boston I was looking at a painting that stunned me emotionally with the sheer beauty of its execution. There was no story to it, no subject to “understand,” no recognizable image to contemplate and react to. It was simply a glorious field of green. Yet standing there, I felt emotions of joy, awe, and gratitude inexplicably welling up inside of me, not unlike those that rise on a luscious spring day when the sky is high blue, the air is fresh, and your spirit quickens.

Years later, I had the pleasure of meeting the artist of that lovely painting, Friedel Dzubas. He was a small, shy man who spoke so softly I had to strain to hear him. What a surprise that that enormous, ravishing piece should have come from such an individual. I spoke with him briefly about the source of inspiration for his huge Color Field paintings. “Do you try to capture the essence of a landscape you have seen?” I asked. “No,” he answered, “I paint from emotion remembered.” There was nothing more to ask, nothing more to say. He had drawn from the wellspring of his own emotion so skillfully that he had evoked emotion just as deep in me. Forever since, that is first and foremost what I ask of a work of art. I hope the paintings from my collection touch your spirit in that same simple way.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Pleasant T. Rowland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Pleasant T. Rowland is an alumna of Wells College, noted educator, author of early childhood literacy programs, and founder of American Girl. Pleasant has restored more than a dozen historic properties in Aurora since 2001, many of which today comprise the Inns of Aurora.



Pleasant T. Rowland.



The Spa

BUILT IN 2020



A Country Landscape, Tom Wesselman.



Big Blooms: Keira, Paul Lange.



Left: *Big Blooms: Niki*, Center: *Big Blooms: Anna*, Paul Lange.



Left: *Big Blooms: Helena*, Right: *Big Blooms: Niki*, Paul Lange.



Left: *Big Blooms: Gigi*, Paul Lange. Center: *Apple Tree*, Jennifer Bartlett.



Left: *Diver*, Right: *Man*, Emma Amos.



Man (detail), Emma Amos.



Desires (detail), Hal Larsen.



Mirror, Jennifer Bartlett.



Gaiai M II, Don Nice.



Desires, Hal Larsen.



Left: *Sideways Glance*, Rosalind Stracey. Center: *Classic Bathrobe*, Jim Dine.



Sledding (detail), Paula Schuette Kraemer.



Left: *Cookout*, Right: *Sledding*, Paula Schuette Kraemer.



Cookout, Paula Schuette Kraemer.



Sledding, Paula Schuette Kraemer.

The Aurora Inn

BUILT IN 1833, RESTORED IN 2003



Nancy Eagles, Charles Loring Elliott.



Left: *William D. Eagles*, Charles Loring Elliott. Right: *High Season Granville*, Paul Hamilton.



Mrs. Eagles, Charles Loring Elliott.



John Eagles, Charles Loring Elliott.



Scenic Murals of Aurora, New York, Glenn Moore Shaw.





Scenic Murals of Aurora, New York (detail), Glenn Moore Shaw.



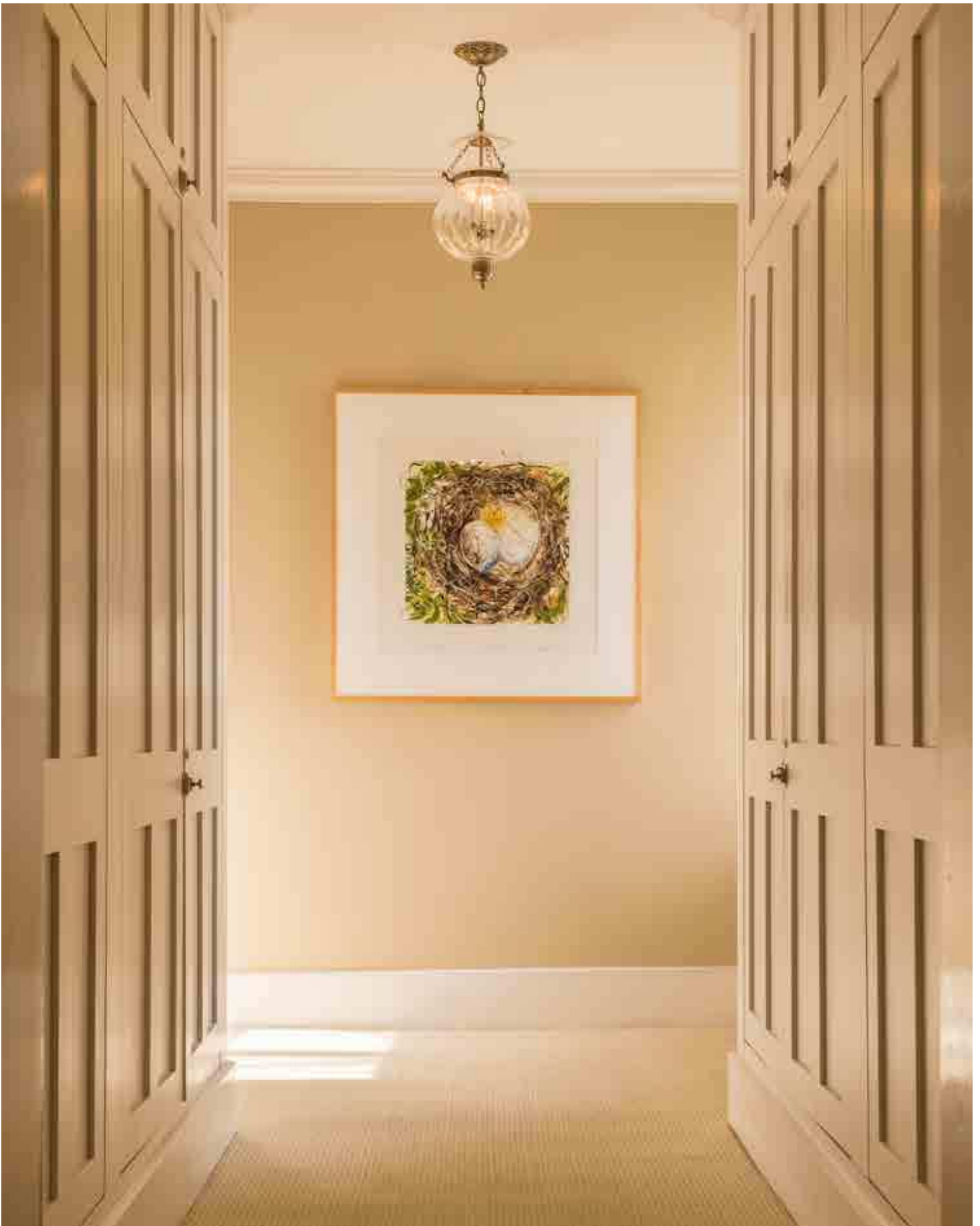
The murals in their original location in the Aurora Inn lobby.



Scenic Murals of Aurora, New York (detail), Glenn Moore Shaw.

E.B. Morgan House

BUILT IN 1858, RESTORED IN 2005



Nest, Katherine Bowling.



Left: *E.B. Morgan*, Bayerd H. Tyler.



Three Reds, Raimonds Straprans.





Left: *Still Life from New Zealand*, Phillip Sutton. Right: *Still Life in the Sun*, Robert Frame.



Laveuses, Gabriel Goddard.



A Somewhat Conventional Study of a One Gallon Can, Raimonds Straprans.



Pear, No.14 (detail), Cynthia Nartonis.



Pear, No.15, Cynthia Nartonis.

Rowland House

BUILT IN 1903, RESTORED IN 2014



Le Sens Du Retour, Pierre Alechinsky.



Center: *Night Fall*, Roger Bechtold.



Red, White and Blue, Roger Bechtold.



Night Fall (detail), Roger Bechtold.



Phenomena Path, Paul Jenkins.



Phenomena Highwind, Paul Jenkins.



Maples and Hickory Trees, Wolf Kahn.



2nd Fletcher Farm, Eric Aho.



Center: Red Barn on the Stark Road, Wolf Kahn.



Maples and Hickory Trees (detail), Wolf Kahn.



Chinese Folk Art.



Hand-painted Walls, MacKenzie-Childs "Pure Sunshine"
Dot and Decal, Kari Ganoung Ruiz.



Hand-painted Walls, MacKenzie-Childs Courtly Check,
Kari Ganoung Ruiz.



Ginko Kimono Series #14, Gloria Garfinkle.

Zabriskie House

BUILT IN 1904, RESTORED IN 2019



K Series Green, Gloria Garfinkle.



Nicholas Lansing Zabriskie, Irving Wiles.



Alonzo Morgan Zabriskie and son Lansing, Unknown.



Watercolor Zerkell, Jim Dine.



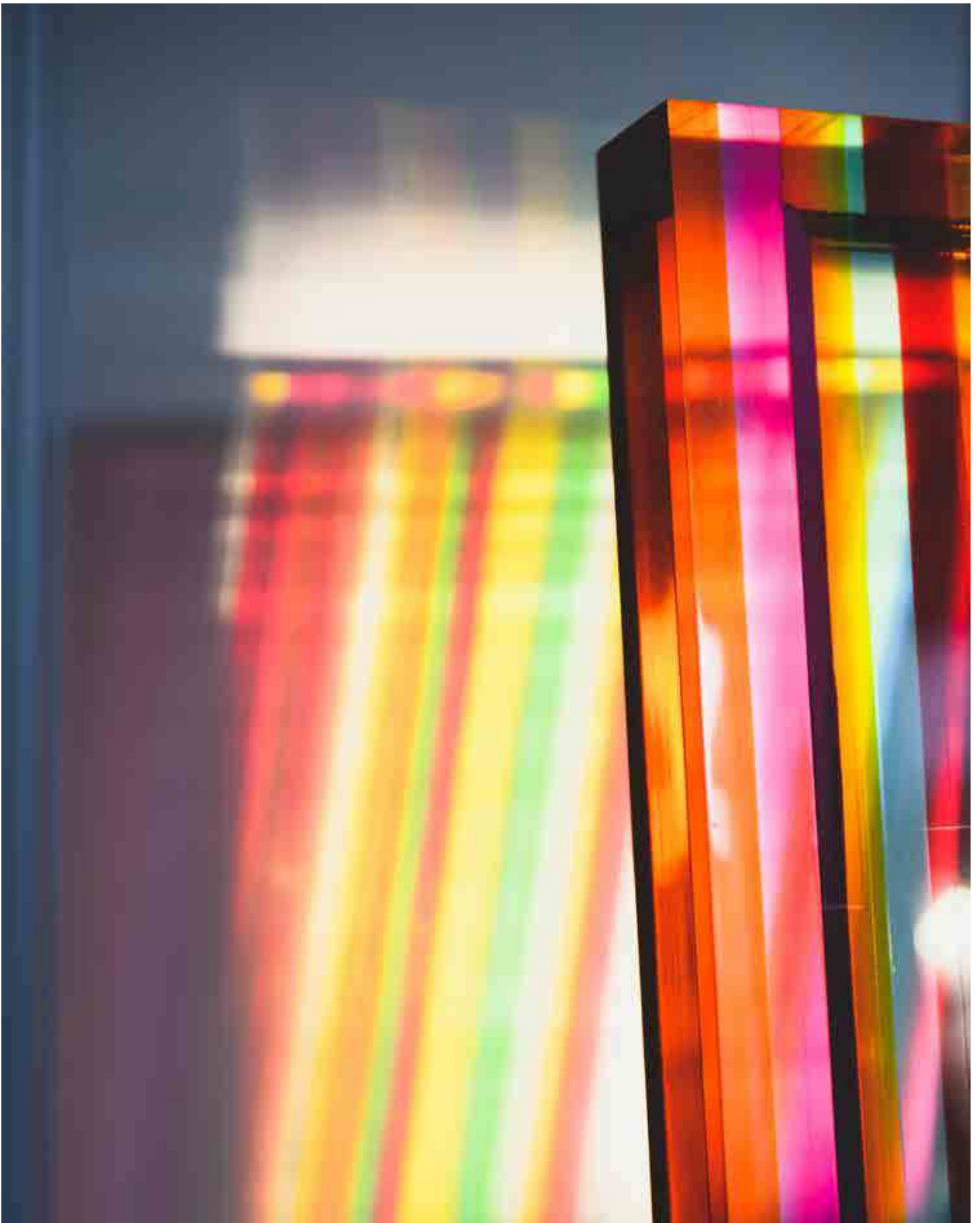
Rainbow Chair, Patrick Norgu.



Leslie, Chuck Close.



Leslie (detail), Chuck Close.



Rainbow Chair (detail), Patrick Norgu.



Apotheosis in Indigo, Judy Rifka.



Key West #5, Laurent de Brunhoff.



Left to Right: *Through the Chartruesed Into*, *Through the Green Into*, *Through the Oranged Into*, Sam Richardson.





Key West #1, Laurent de Brunhoff.



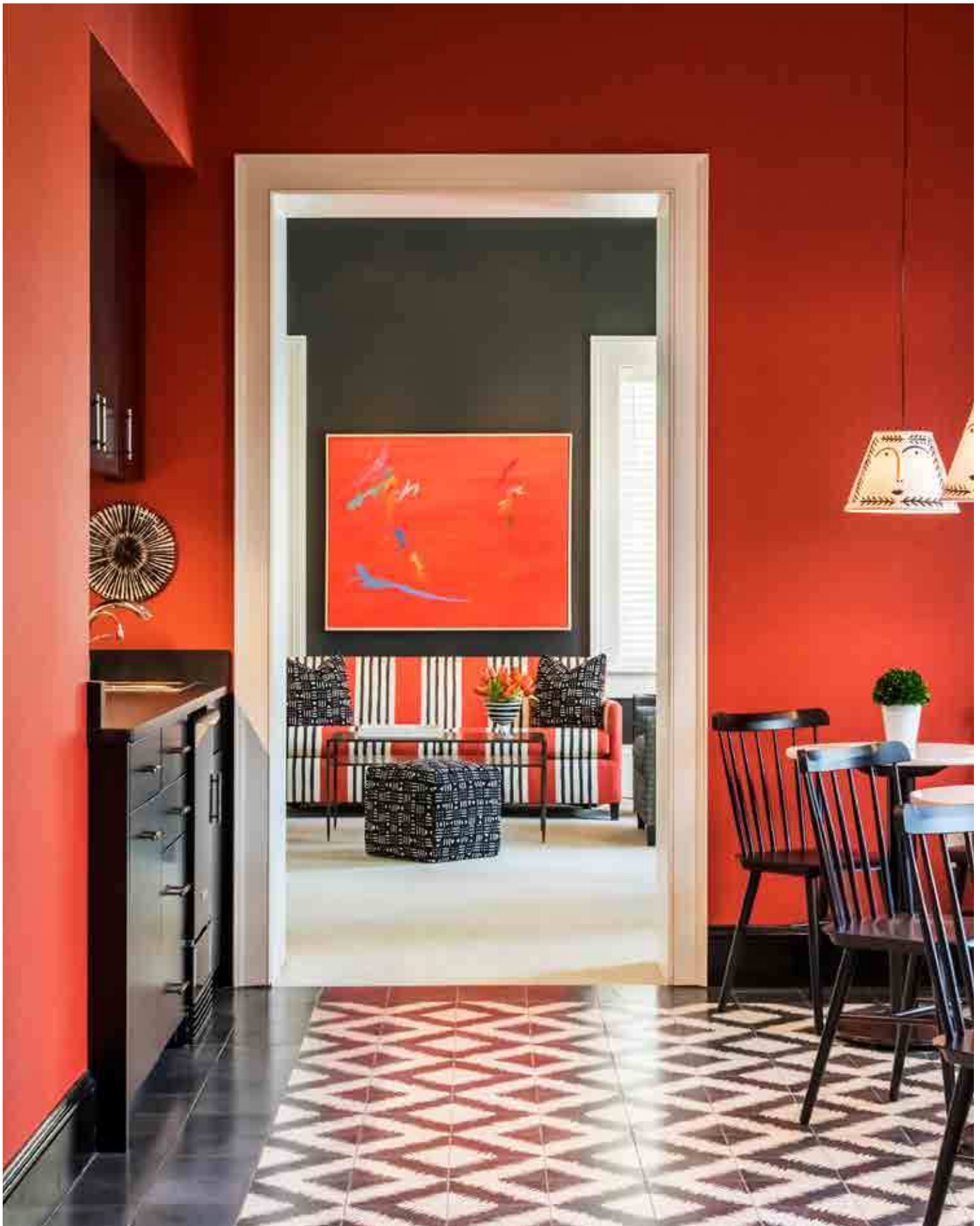
Ordering Spring, Janet Fish.



Center: Cathedral Hill, Gregory Kondos.

Wallcourt Hall

BUILT IN 1909, RESTORED IN 2016



Red Scherzo, Burton Phillips.



Center: *Untitled*, John Mominee. Right: *Mercado*, Rafael Ferrer.



Cast of Choir Loft Panels, Florence Duomo, Luca della Robbia.



Red Scherzo, Burton Phillips.



Spanish Vista, Marion Coffey.



Apalachicola, Suzanne Caporaël.



Together, Maser.



Ladies on the Balcony, Betty Woodman.



Cottonwood Essence, Sandy Walker.



Courtramp Screamer, Malcom Morley.



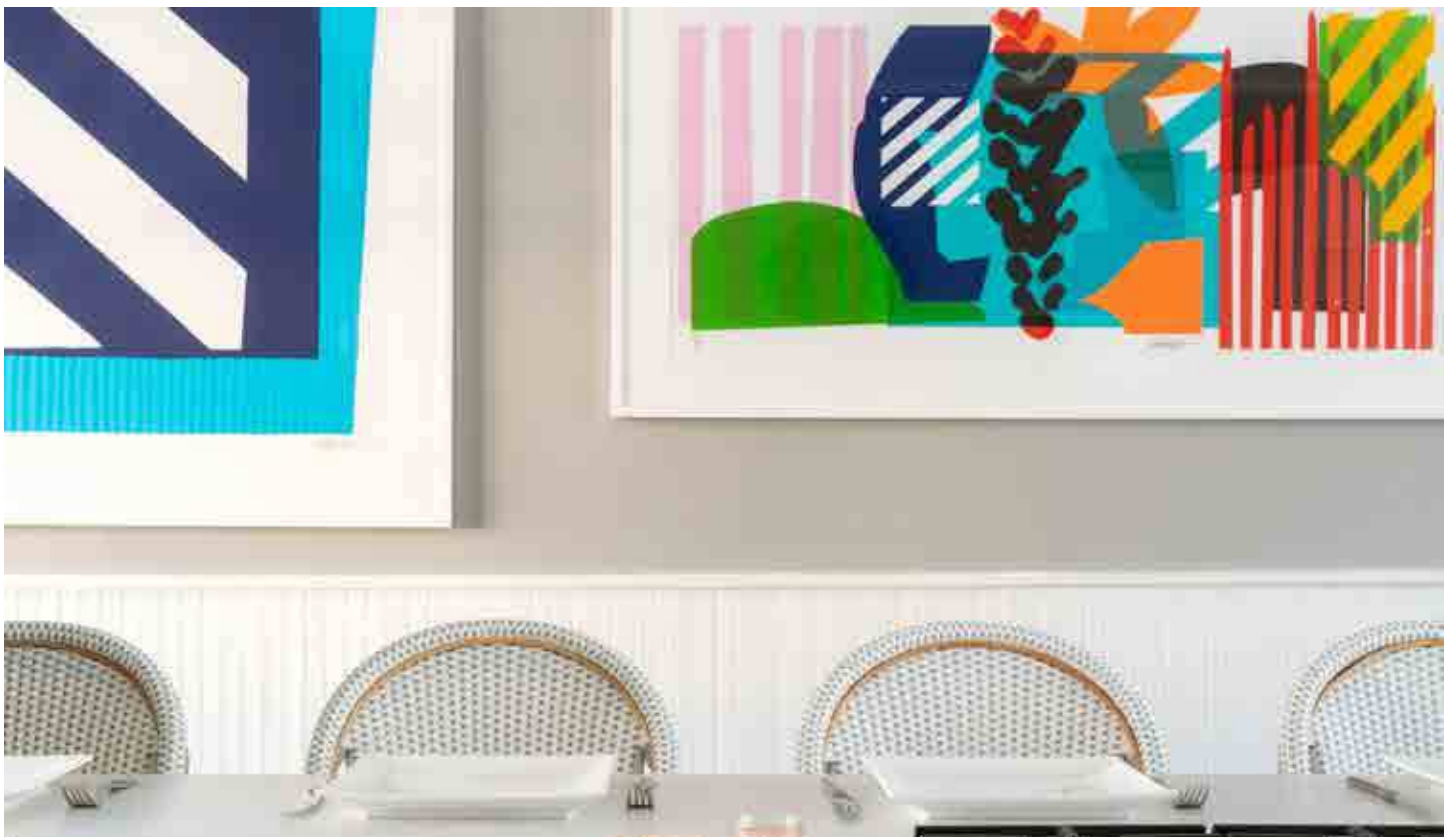
Hand-painted Bathroom Walls, Kari Ganoung Ruiz.

Aurora Cooks!

OPENED 2018



Left to Right: *Early Rise*, *Starry*, *Nocturnal Life*, Maser.



Left: *Starry* (detail), Right: *Nocturnal Life* (detail), Maser.



Left to Right: *Early Rise*, *Starry*, *Nocturnal Life (detail)*, Maser.

