





















When Alan Met (the) Glenn

Atlanta's most prestigious curator provides one-of-a-kind artworks for a prestigious, one-of-a-kind boutique hotel.

When David Marvin's Legacy Group sought out someone to help liven up the walls of the Glenn, Alan Avery was the ideal choice. After all, Avery is the man behind some of Atlanta's most prominent private art collections, in addition to the original works on display at the Aquarium Hilton, the St. Regis, and the Embassy Suites at Centennial Park (among others).

"The whole idea behind the hotel was 'sexy chic,' " says Avery, director of the Alan Avery Art Company and president of the Atlanta Gallery Association. "And that's an unusual opportunity, especially in the South." Avery created the original artwork program at the Delano in Miami, so he was "used to doing things outside of the box."

To begin, he asked, "What if Glenn was a person, an androgynous sort of male figure?" Avery then assembled artists who work in a contemporary, sensual vein and commissioned them to create pieces that would entice the mythical "Glenn." Pieces that were sexual but not X-rated.

Says Avery with a smile, "They let me push the limits with this installation. It's been really fun watching the general public react." For example, Avery asked himself, "What if people got off the elevator and instead of people standing there waiting, there were these heads, variations of Glenn himself, sunk into the walls, staring. Wouldn't that be really bizarre?"

1 "Glenn Heads" by Alan Avery; antique glass wig forms, colored glass beads, and Plexiglass. Avery estimates that there are "about 34 to 37" scattered throughout the hotel. Each head is

secured at the neck with a marine plywood cuff, then "locked in" with poured concrete and drywall. As Avery says, "You know, in hotels people like to take things."

- 2 An untitled triptych of "sexual organs suggested by nature," by photographer Demetri Papacharalampos, hangs in one of the hotel's 110 guest rooms. The artist provided 50 images, yet not one is repeated. Avery prides himself on the fact that "there is no guest room with exactly the same art."
- 3 "Urban Centennial," a specially commissioned, threedimensional photographic collage by one of Avery's favorite artists, Matt Colagiuri, eyes visitors as they enter and exit the second floor elevator.
- 4 "Desdemona," an "almost abstract, female nude developed in negative" by Michael Winner, is so popular with guests that "of an edition of eight, all have been bought, which is a very rare instance," notes Avery.
- 5 "Unconscious Recovery I, II, III, and IV" (encaustic on canvas) by Trish Lazuka is a set of four abstract paintings that act as a color bridge, melding the green and blue tones of the Presi-
- 6 David Peterson's "Observations Collected" (acrylic, mixed media, resin) graces the second floor hallway.

Avery hopes that the art he's placed in the Glenn educates and stimulates, satisfying his goal as curator: that viewers "recognize a work of art as a soulful experience, rather than an item EXIT

Hopefully, "Glenn" is pleased, as well.