



THE LIAISON CAPITOL HILL, AN AFFINIA HOTEL, SHOWCASES A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW IN POIGNANT AND PROVOCATIVE ART PROGRAM

***Works by Artist Randy Slack and Photographer Wayne Takenaka
Enliven Hotel's Public Spaces***

Washington, D.C. – Ranging from compelling to risqué, the art installations at the new Liaison Capitol Hill, An Affinia Hotel, provide a strong sense of place as well as high design for guests visiting Washington. Contemporary artists, painter Randy Slack and photographer Wayne Takenaka, were tasked with creating the evocative collections, which are each destined to spark conversation and contemplation. Slack's works showcase some of history's most renowned political leaders while Takenaka's lens captures the polished political player of D.C. legend and lore.

Overseen by the firm Dawson Design Associates of Seattle, the artwork is woven into the overall design of the hotel's key social spaces and guestroom hallways. "The neighborhood and the hotel's Capitol Hill location were a near-endless source of inspiration to our design team," said Andrea Sheehan, principal of Dawson Design Associates. "We've created a series of energetic public spaces, including the lobby, bar and restaurant, that encourage a new level of social interaction among guests and then added an unexpectedly compelling art program to support it."

The hotel makes a strong statement with its series of dramatic six-foot by six-foot abstract monochromatic oils by Arizona artist Randy Slack. The collection of works feature iconic world leaders such as Martin Luther King, Mohandas Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, Dwight Eisenhower, and Winston Churchill. Guests can view Slack's works throughout the first floor lobby, bar and restaurant.

The hotel's edgier photographic series of 60 to 70 works by noted New York fashion photographer Wayne Takenaka explores a "day in the life" of a hypothetical D.C. lobbyist, the "Liaison" come to life. The gallery-style images, each original, are mounted in white mat with black frames and displayed throughout the hotel guest corridors, meeting rooms and other areas of the property. Against a backdrop of varied local landmarks, the works will progress from morning through evening, conveying a narrative of the storied power-brokering that defines the D.C. political landscape.

The art installations complement Dawson Design's monochromatic color scheme for the restaurant, which is executed in shades of black, white and grey with a striking red line – "a color indicative of power and confidence," said Sheehan – that unites the public spaces.

Political references abound throughout the 343-room hotel. A rendering of the Bill of Rights is on display above the lobby bar and guest room desk/dresser consoles feature etched glass tops depicting highly stylized visages of Mount Rushmore.

A self-taught artist, Slack's work explores the development of human identity through the connections with family, place and consumerism. His unfiltered observation of the modern world results in exuberant imagery that radiates an enviable sense of humor and freedom, woven together with his finely honed techniques and bold, elegant aesthetics.

Spanning 30 years, New York-based Takenaka is an acclaimed portraitist, working with performing artists, actors and actresses. Early in his career, he worked with the legendary fashion photographer Patrick Demarchelier, honing his photographic skills on sessions with Hollywood's A-list personalities.

Affinia Hotels, managed by New York-based Denihan Hospitality Group, offers multiple locations in New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. The brand recently launched the industry's most innovative guest service program, *My Affinia*, which allows business and leisure travelers to tap the ease and immediacy of the Internet to create experiences of total customized comfort. Affinia Hotels is a proud member of a worldwide alliance of hotels including Joie De Vivre in the United States, Thistle Hotels in the United Kingdom, Rotana Hotels in the Middle East and First Hotels in Scandinavia. For more information, visit www.affinia.com or call 1-866-AFFINIA.

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