

# ABOUT THE COLLECTION

This art collection includes 641 art pieces in the public spaces and hotel rooms, and is the result of a unique collaboration between business entities and the learning institution. When MSU Denver entered this public/private partnership, it was in the spirit of an urban land-grant institution, applying the creative innovations, strength and energy of our faculty and students to a real-world context. Architects, designers, hotel management and university administrators recognized that highlighting the talent of the Metro State faculty, students and alumni was an opportunity to energize the buildings' spaces and forge connections between local resources and global audiences. Faculty and students from the university's Departments of Art and Industrial Design collaborated with building planners to develop a call for entries aimed at pulling talent from Metro's past and present. These Art and Design departments are renowned for their currency and for establishing high standards for art that is relevant to contemporary society. Our programs encourage critical thinking, and strive to produce distinctive, thought-provoking art and design in a variety of media. The art selection committees selected art that was of the highest quality, with pieces that resonate and provide viewers with unexpected moments of delight. The result is an art collection that is fresh and vibrant, with rich content and a strong relationship to its environment.

—**Deanne Pytlinski**  
Assistant Chair, Department of Art

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SpringHill Suites Denver Downtown at Metro State  
1190 Auraria Pkwy  
Denver, CO 80204  
Phone: 303-705-7300  
[www.SpringHillSuitesDenver.com](http://www.SpringHillSuitesDenver.com)

## Notes on the art labels

For more information on the artists, use the QR codes located on the right side of the art labels. Download a QR code reader app on your web-accessible mobile device and scan the QR code to access the artwork webpage.

## Complete list of artists in the Hotel and Hospitality Learning Center collection

Deidre Adams  
Jesse Bott  
Jason Lee Gimbel  
Ryan Glaze  
Danae Falliers  
Tsehai Johnson  
Tomiko Jones  
Heidi Jung  
Candice Rose Knutson  
Sandy Lane  
Sara Lightning

Susanne Mitchell  
Lauri Lynnxe Murphy  
Matthew Osier  
Alison Peck  
Jennifer Pokorny  
David Allen Reed  
Natascha Seideneck  
Mark Sink  
Craig Marshall Smith  
Derrick Velasquez



DENVER DOWNTOWN AT METRO STATE

## A SELECTION OF WORKS FROM THE ART COLLECTION



## HOTEL LOBBY 1ST FLOOR (SELECTED PIECES)



Jennifer Pokorny  
alumni  
*Zephyr*  
ceramic

Jennifer Pokorny's ceramics look at structures found in nature and find beauty in their functionality. Forms in nature observe a fragile balance that nonetheless remains resilient when interacting with outside forces. The complexity of those thriving organic forms may be metaphors for existence and the human condition.



Jesse Bott  
alumni  
*Fox*  
graphite on paper

Jesse Bott's contemporary work is an extension of human interaction with nature, displaying a spiritual connection and a magnificent representation of power within animals. His drawings penetrate the junction between the visible surface and what lies beneath. They challenge our observational ability, seeking to expose the unseen.



Heidi Jung  
alumni  
*Scarlet Emperor*  
mixed media on panel

Heidi Jung's love of plants and insects began at an early age and serves as both her inspiration and subject matter. She appreciates what the Japanese refer to as "wabi sabi," the beauty in decay and the acceptance of transience.



Sandy Lane  
faculty  
*The Kitchen*  
digital photograph

Sandy Lane explores life's narratives through miniature environments that evoke her longing for home and childhood through imagined spaces. These works examine a daydream using fruits and vegetables as transformed interior spaces. Dollhouse furniture and houses made of produce are lovingly sculpted by Lane. Their transience is mitigated by their preservation through photography.

## HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTER 2ND FLOOR (SELECTED PIECES)



Susanne Mitchell  
faculty  
*They Arrived Together*  
mixed media

Susanne Mitchell examines notions of happiness and longing through reflections on her family's ancestral heritage in Malawi (in southeast Africa) and the United States. She combines and repeats various elements so that the layering process acts as a symbolic reference to history and multifaceted meanings.



Tsehai Johnson  
faculty  
*Field #12*  
porcelain

Tsehai Johnson's elegant porcelain wall patterns animate and decorate a space, revealing both a sense of order and a dynamic, changing pattern. The porcelain wallpaper design offers a formal and orderly installation, yet the pattern recedes and protrudes to varying degrees, offering subtle optical shifts.



Derrick Velasquez  
faculty  
*Untitled 40*  
vinyl on walnut

Derrick Velasquez's work deals with human manipulation of industrially engineered materials. This sculpture is made with vinyl strips that are individually measured and delicately balanced on a single rod mounted to the wall.



Matthew Osier  
student  
*Golfer*  
photograph

Matthew Osier's photography explores our physical relationship to the environment and how insignificant the average human being is on a cosmic scale. The images are meant to alter the reality of the viewer, giving them the perspective of the subject in a mundane, humorously showcased scenario.

## HOSPITALITY LEARNING CENTER 1ST & 2ND FLOORS (SELECTED PIECES)



Natascha Seideneck  
alumni/faculty  
*Sri Lanka Tsunami/NYC  
Pavement*  
inkjet on aluminum

Natascha Seideneck investigates juxtaposition of place and perspective with appropriated imagery, aerial photography, satellite imagery, and extreme close-ups. Recent sites of trauma and disaster, such as New York or Sri Lanka, are shown together to add a sense of poignancy to the viewer experience.



Tomiko Jones  
faculty  
*Twin Tree*  
photograph

Tomiko Jones immerses herself in the landscape, drawing responses to the sense of place. The landscape echoes the internal terrain, simultaneously marking and blurring difference. Exploring the geography of the land, she engages transitional spaces for remains of human activity, which in turn point to how a way of life has changed



Danae Falliers  
faculty  
*wildflower3*  
photograph

Danae Falliers is interested in the borderline between photography and drawing; moving and still; pop and traditional; psychological and spiritual; abstract and representational; potentiality and stasis. Her highly manipulated, abstracted images are of an idealized, fabricated and fantasized American west – one that exists only in our memory and mythology.



Mark Sink  
alumni  
*Blue Clouds #8*  
archival pigment  
print on canvas

Mark Sink creates fine art photography which has been shown and collected worldwide. He began working with the Diana, a simple plastic toy camera, while a student at Metro State in 1979. Sink lived in NYC through the 1980s and worked with and documented the lives and works of Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Rene Ricard and other art luminaries.