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UC Berkeley Grad's Art Adorns New Hotel

David Willis' glass works have just been installed at The Alise.

By Anneli Rufus



Photo by Russell Abraham

Works by world-renowned glass artist and UC Berkeley grad David Willis adorn The Alise, the newly reconceptualized 93-room San Francisco boutique hostelry formerly known as Hotel Grace.

These commissioned works will be revealed along with other new construction features, design elements and art installations when The Alise -- located near Union Square and Nob Hill -- officially opens next month.

After graduating from Cal in 1992, Willis attended Pilchuk Glass School in Washington State. His methods cross many disciplines to include flameworking, hot blowing, sculpting and cold assembly, and his pieces are now included in public, private and museum collections worldwide.

“The Alise embodies the spirit and personality we envisioned for Pineapple’s first hotel in San Francisco,” said Michelle Barnet, founder and president of Pineapple Hospitality Company, which owns and manages the hotel.

“The hotel has been operating in preview mode to wonderfully positive reviews. Now that the artwork is in and we’re putting finishing touches on the design, we look forward to formally introducing The Alise in October and to welcoming everyone.”

That design includes sunny yellow and muted gray tones in guestrooms -- evoking the city’s sunshine and fog -- as well as elegant lighting fixtures, custom-designed furniture and other modern appurtenances gently updating an historic building.

A grand piano was recently placed in the mezzanine overlooking the lobby, and artworks have been installed -- including two large-scale glass-on-panel works created by Willis for the hotel’s Pineapple Bistro & Bar.

Other fine-art pieces at The Alise include *End Game II* by Victor Ostrovsky; *Penguins* by Robert Kuo; *New Year’s Eve*, *Flower Petal Gown*, and *California* by Erte; and *Lustful Selection (2015)* by Peter Anton.