



# Make Yourself at Home

You're invited to a DIY art tour at new boutique hotel Le Meridien Columbus, the Joseph.

BY EMILY THOMPSON

**Le Meridien Columbus, the Joseph** is unlike any other hotel in the city—and that's exactly what developers and father-son duo Ron and Joel Pizzuti were banking on. “We would get frustrated when we went to other cities and saw cool hotels,” Joel says. “We just thought Columbus needed and deserved a full-service boutique hotel.” The Joseph, which celebrates its grand opening March 10, is a passion project for the Pizzutis, wedding their loves of timeless design (think Italian marble floors) and art, with an emphasis on local vernacular. The Short North hotel showcases a large collection of artworks, including 31 pieces by 15 local artists, and the Pizzutis hope Columbus residents will come for the art and stay for the lobby and bar, even if they aren't spending the night. Let us point you in the right direction. [josephhotelcolumbus.com](http://josephhotelcolumbus.com)

Your DIY art tour of the six-floor Joseph begins before you even open the front door to the hotel. The glass door affords a view of the massive “NYT” installation by New Jersey-based artist KAWS. Ten neon-colored circular canvases each illustrate a part of a comic-book-style character.



Once inside, head to the right to take in “**I Saw Othello's Visage in His Mind.**” Situated above the fireplace, the ornate black mirrored sculpture by New York artist Fred Wilson was originally destined for Ron's living room, but it belonged in this space instead, he says. Appropriately,

spokeswoman Haley Boehning draws parallels between the two spaces: “It feels like walking into Ron's house,” she says of the Joseph.

Continue toward the reception desk, where Rob Wynne's contemporary pink glitter prints present thought-provoking phrases like “**I Was Told They Loved Me.**” Then take the staircase to find Diane Landry's “**The Solo Knight - I,**” a motion-sensor wheel of illuminated recycled water bottles filled with sand.

Along with a stunning view of High Street, you'll find Scott Lenhardt's “**Gravedigger**” on the mezzanine. The life-size horse



sculpture is reminiscent of Tim Burton animation with its dark, swirling scene of leafless trees on the body of the horse.

The second floor is where you'll find the **Ohio Portfolio** gallery, which features artwork by all the local artists whose works adorn the walls of the Joseph. Don't miss Tony Mendoza's mesmerizing four-photo series chronicling his daughter **Lydia's** Halloween costumes. And, if they're not in use, check out the four



**ballrooms**, each named for a local celebrity, like Mayor Michael B. Coleman and artist Ann Hamilton.

End your tour back in the lobby at Soul Bar (with a **video installation** above the bar and Nari West's “**West Liquorsoul**” sign—you can't miss it), where you can enjoy a drink and order from a bar menu that echoes fare served at adjacent Cameron Mitchell restaurant The Guild House.