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At Bell's *Deep Forest Light* is in the Spring Exhibition at Torrance Gallery in Edinburgh. See ART NEWS page 10.



The lobby of the Downtown LA Proper Hotel is resplendent in Abel Macias' Central America-inspired mural.

# Los Angeles

More and more hotels are displaying distinctive art to help establish, emphasise or change their identity and differentiate them from others. The art collections they are creating to enhance their interiors are intended to engage a creative clientele. Ian Sclater recently visited some Los Angeles hotels which appeal to art-lovers.

## HOTEL ART

**I**N ITS LANDMARK 1920s California Renaissance Revival building on the historic Broadway corridor, LA's foremost concentration of Art Deco architecture and palace theatres, the **Downtown LA Proper Hotel** is a design destination in itself, with its gorgeous 'Mexican modern' interiors enhanced by touches of Spain, Portugal and Morocco, not least through the use by designer Kelly Wearstler of over 100 different kinds of hand-painted tiles throughout the property.

Formerly the private Cabrillo Club, which numbered Cecil B. DeMille among its members, the building, a designated Historic Landmark, has been reimagined through a modern lens, blending vintage elements with modern influences while preserving the spirit of Old Hollywood with a style Mr DeMille would have appreciated.

Mexican folk art-style paintings greet visitors in the lobby, where the walls and ceiling are enveloped in a mural by Abel Macias populated by stylised flora and fauna representative of Central and South America, a theme which is continued with Oaxaca hand-woven reed lampshades and Aztec motifs on the wall outside every guest room.

Residential in feel, each room and suite is appointed with vintage furniture and rugs and accented with hand-applied plaster detailing and a warm palette of charcoals and mauves.

There are site-specific murals and installations by local artists and artisans such as ceramicist Morgan Peck (reception desk, roof-top tables), Ben Madansky (the ceramic wall in the Pool Suite) and Judson Studios, whose stained glass adds sparkle to the public areas. LA's longest established stained glass business, they have numbered Frank Lloyd Wright among their clients.

Bonus: The hotel is within walking distance of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) and the Broad, two of LA's top art museums, and the Music Center and Walt Disney Concert Hall. [properhotel.com/downtown-la](https://properhotel.com/downtown-la)



Ben Madansky's ceramic wall in the Pool Suite of the Downtown LA Proper Hotel

