

# BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY

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## the big picture

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# N.C. at 21c

Find five local artists' works in the vitrine spaces at 21c Museum Hotel

BY AMANDA MACLAREN PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIANA BROUGH

**A**s a 24-hour art museum, 21c has established itself as a space for the community to enter and immerse themselves in a variety of mediums, from sculpture and screen printing to photography and audio-visual stimuli – all at no cost to the viewer. This dedication to public art extends further to include works by area artists, who were invited to collaborate with **Supergraphic Studio** to produce site-specific prints for installation on the guest room floors of the hotel. “21c is committed to having works by local artists on view at all times, whether as part of the vitrine program, on loan to a temporary exhibit or as a site-specific, permanent commission,” says **Alice Gray Stites**, 21c Museum Hotels’ vice president and museum



**Damian Stamer's *Toler* greets guests on the 11th floor of the 21c Museum Hotel.**

and utilizing local contacts, but artists can also submit pieces via the 21c website. “The artwork should be suitable for reproduction as a wallpaper,” Alice says, “and, like the rest of the artwork featured at 21c, should be visually and conceptually engaging.”

director. “... Showcasing works by artists from the Durham region is important in order to broaden the audience for these artists’ works, and to both welcome and represent the local arts community to 21c.” These are long-term installations, but about three or so will be rotated out in spring 2016, and again the next year and the year after, with new local works added in their place. Alice says that the 21c curatorial team works to identify artists whose work would animate the vitrine spaces by visiting gallery and museum exhibits



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## Damian Stamer

South Lowell 21 (10th Floor)  
Toler (11th Floor)



*I paint places that would rather be left alone. Dark woods and dried-out fields glimmer for me now as they did on childhood expeditions with my twin brother. Our adrenaline-tinged memories persist in my trespasses, telling of forgotten barns and abandoned houses – their disheveled rooms pregnant with secrets. While today's solitude halves my anticipation, it doubles the anxiety, reminding me that someone could have been here 20 years or 20 minutes ago. My unease in these seemingly empty places becomes muffled by stories; they ghost up from the debris before vanishing like their tellers."*

Damian received his B.F.A. in painting from Arizona State University and his M.F.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill. His studios are in Hillsborough and Brooklyn, and he travels back and forth between the two. He recently broke ground on a new studio in the woods of north Durham County "in the center of the places and spaces that I paint." Locally, you can find his work at **Craven Allen Gallery** and Flanders Gallery in Raleigh. ▶



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