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Make A Difference Day

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Artful lodging

Check in to check out the fine art at these new hotels.

By Laura Daily

The menu of hotel amenities gets longer every day. The latest: multimillion-dollar fine art collections. A handful of "art hotels," designed specifically to house massive personal collections, have opened their doors in the last few months. Check out these standouts:

21c Museum Hotel (Louisville)

Philanthropists Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson wanted to bring their art to the people. Their solution? The 21c Museum Hotel in Louisville. The hotel displays a wide variety of art from living artists: Think traditional oils, high-tech videos, even a flock of oversize red penguins. "We wanted a space that could be explored at all hours, with a surprise around every corner," says Wilson, who plans to rotate the selections of artwork every six months or so.

Lancaster Arts Hotel (Lancaster, Pa.)

Once a historic tobacco warehouse, this hotel located in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country practically has been transformed into a museum, complete with an in-house gallery and hallways lined with local artists' self-portraits. Now on exhibit: watercolors of Lancaster County.

Chambers Minneapolis (Minneapolis)

Art collector Ralph Burnet opened this boutique hotel, in part, to showcase his YBA (Young British Artists) works. Some 130 provocative pieces, including paintings by Damien Hirst and Gary Hume, adorn public areas. Video art plays in the hallways of the hotel and on guest-room TVs.

Gallery One (Fort Lauderdale)

Paintings, sculptures and glassware by artists both established and unknown are exhibited throughout the property. Monthly gallery nights are held to raise money to benefit local non-profits.

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