

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015  
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# Durham

the design issue



## the big picture

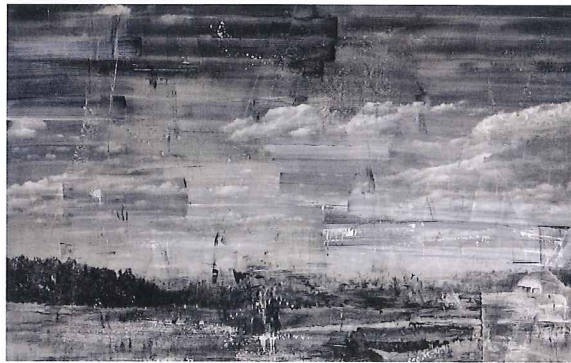
The talent behind downtown's Civil Rights History Mural *Page 48*

# NI.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.**

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

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.”



## 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. ▶



## Bill Fick

**Skulls and Zombies (3rd–6th Floors)**



*My current work focuses on frightening monster images that reflect society's ever-growing fear and anxiety of all things different and unfamiliar. These images are presented in a variety of forms including prints, T-shirts, posters and tattoos."*

Bill received his B.A. from **Duke University** in 1986 and his M.F.A. from the University of North Carolina–Greensboro in 1990. He is the co-director of Supergraphic, the printmaking studio in **Golden Belt** that worked with 21c to organize and produce the work used in the vitrines.





**Stacy Lynn Waddell**  
*The Mississippi in Time of War for Francis, Nathaniel, James, Trayvon, Michael, Eric and Me, 1862/1865/2015 (14th Floor)*

“

*My studio practice is an effort to appropriate the power invested in linguistics, historical record and cultural leitmotifs. Each provides a fitting context for me to critique a pervasive lineage of contradictions and misunderstandings that remain relevant. The formal and perceptual issues presented in my work begin as an appropriate gesture. For this commission, I have selected an image from the portfolio of 19th-century American lithographers Nathaniel Currier and James Merritt Ives to both critique the intervention and newly minted powers of photography as well as shed light on the grim, ever-present ideological reality that this scene presents.*

*Gold leaf is a material that I have long used because of its attractive physical attributes, its ability to distort and transform, and its 'inherent' value. Gilding is a cornerstone process of the decorative arts. It has an important historic tradition that I am aligning myself with as well.”*

After earning her M.F.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2007, Stacy’s work has been recognized and exhibited both nationally and nearby at **The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University**, the North Carolina Museum of Art and most recently at Flanders Gallery in Raleigh. She currently resides in Chapel Hill and has a studio in Durham. ▶



## Harrison Haynes

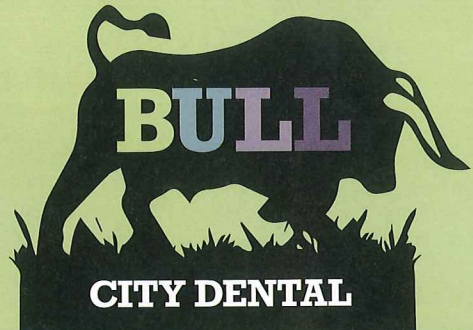
*Three Line Whip (8th Floor), Walking Disaster (9th Floor, pictured left)*

“

*I grew up in Durham. For a time my mom worked just down the street from here, and I remember accompanying her to the spacious lobby of the Central Carolina Bank (CCB), this building's anchor tenant, so she could deposit a check. Artists – over the course of their lives, whether they like it or not – become practically familiar with the ruining and repairing of walls. We keep knives and spackle on our studio shelves, yet most of us would not count these as materials. When asked to produce images for these newly finished walls, Grace Jones' 'Demolition Man' kept running through my head. Turns out the song has nothing to do with construction workers, but the lines 'walking disaster' and 'three-line whip' had nice chemistry with the photographs, so I swiped them.”*



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Harrison received a B.F.A. in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and a M.F.A. in photography from the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College in New York. His studio is east of downtown, in **Spectre Arts**. Find more of his work exhibited at 21c beginning October 16 and in a show opening at **LIGHT Art+Design** in Chapel Hill on October 9. ►



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**Brian Gonzales**  
 Punta Sal (7th Floor)



*Reminiscing on past experiences in hotels, I settled on the idea that a hotel's goal is to provide the comforts of home while away from home. I am the son of Latin American immigrants from Mexico and Honduras. I visited Punta Sal National Park and photographed the tiny islands that dot the northern coast of Honduras. Whenever I look at these photographs they remind me of an exotic place that provided all the comforts of home, when home was thousands of miles away."*

Brian received his B.F.A from East Carolina University and a M.F.A from the Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis. His studio space is at Supergraphic and at **Super G Print Lab** on **Hood Street**, where he is a research fellow. Find more of his current work at the **American Tobacco Campus**, the **SunTrust Gallery** at the **Durham Arts Council** (on view through October 17) and new work on display in the spring at **North Carolina Museum of Art**. **DM**

