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hotel  
*Matilda*



“Blue Pangaea” by Bosco Sodi

## **A UNIQUELY ART-CENTERED HOTEL**

Bosco Sodi’s huge organic masterpiece, “Blue Pangaea,” unharnesses vibrant energy and exuberant dialogue. Spencer Tunick’s artfully-covered-up nudes inhabit and give life to an interior wall. A continuously evolving kaleidoscope of colors by Nacho Rodriguez Bach greets arriving guests with an electric welcome. Daniela Edburg’s hypnotic and allegorical photos repeatedly turn heads. Aldo Chaparro’s light sculpture explores visual juxtaposition of traditional vs. modern. Welcome to Hotel Matilda...where contemporary art is at the core of the theme, spirit and décor of the property.

Hotel Matilda is an innovative hotel that is forging its own hospitality path, but no characteristic distinguishes it more than its ambience of an art gallery filled with the works of contemporary artists. It houses an eclectic collection of works, including several pieces commissioned specifically for Hotel Matilda by popular and rising stars of the Mexican art world. A uniquely art-centered environment has been created where even the look of the hotel – a simple decor of clean lines and smooth surfaces, framed by strategically placed works of art – gives guests the feeling they have entered into an art gallery.

Underscoring Hotel Matilda’s commitment to the arts is that it was eponymously named for the subject of a famous painting in the hotel’s collection. In the 1940s, internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Diego Rivera painted a larger-than-life portrait of Matilda Stream, the mother of Hotel Matilda owner/developer Harold Stream. Rivera was unhappy with his first effort, believing it represented what others wanted her to be rather than what he saw in her, so he painted a new portrait his way. In “The Archer,” Matilda stands straight and strong, clutching a bow and arrow, and embodies – in Rivera’s artistic vision of the inner Matilda – the goddess of the hunt, Diana. As a tribute to artistic vision, a reproduction (the original remains in the Stream family private collection) hangs in the hotel.

An art-centered hotel is singularly apropos to San Miguel to Allende – because this historic colonial town with its virtually pristine Spanish-era architecture has long been a hub of the arts known for its art schools that attract budding artists from many countries, array of art galleries and many resident artists. Hotel Matilda echoes and reinforces the artistic soul of San Miguel.

The hotel’s collection is anchored by permanent pieces, but will be continuously refreshed with rotating works. Among the noted Mexican contemporary artists who created major pieces of permanent art specifically for Hotel Matilda are:

- Bosco Sodi: His striking 8' x 16' organic masterpiece, titled “Blue Pangaea” (referring to the huge landmass of the Paleozoic era that broke up into continents), fills the Library, and soars to the second story of the atrium, with intangible energy and timeless dialogue – spanning

from an ancient geological event to the modern lifestyle of guests who are in the Library to enjoy the latest cocktail and use the WiFi.

- Aldo Chapparo: His vibrant light sculpture made from optic fiber illuminates the boveda (a vaulted brick ceiling) that centers and defines the lounge. Continuing the life-long theme of his work, the piece explores the visual relations between natural and artificial objects.
- Nacho Rodriguez Bach: His electronic grid behind the Front Desk of 12 monitors – that echo traditional Mexican tiles – form a seamless image of constantly changing patterns and colors and an always evolving kaleidoscopic fusion of energy and light.

In Spa Matilda, a 4' x 8' piece by Angelo Musco greets guests. The work is actually a photograph, mounted between aluminum and plexiglass, of a construction by the Italian-born, New York-based artist. In *Aranea*, Musco has built a web of human figures (more than 48,000) that span, interlock and overlap in a rich multi-dimensional series of web-nests. Musco describes the piece as representing “the tensions of the complex web of humanity,” and it is displayed in the spa to signify that the stress and tensions of life can be relieved by experiencing the rejuvenation and relaxation of Spa Matilda.

The images of two noted Mexican photographers will be prominent:

- Daniela Edburg: The works of this native of San Miguel de Allende, who employs hypnotic visual effects and exaggerated allegories to challenge the conscience and social taboos, are hung in strategic positions to create guest encounters.
- Eduardo Dayan: Injecting every room and suite with an artistic sense of place is one of this Mexico City photographer’s images depicting iconic Mexican scenes. The black & white photos are in chromatic juxtaposition with the white and graphite color scheme of the rooms. Larger suites have a collection of his photos.

A famous photograph – Spencer Tunick’s sensational shot that made international headlines in 2007 of thousands of people, who are nude but positioned to shield private parts, in Mexico City’s main square – has been adopted to become the wallpaper in the lounge bathroom. Known for photographing large numbers of nude people posed in artistic formations, in cities worldwide, Tunick reached his zenith with this photo with approximately 18,000 participants.

Hotel Matilda celebrates the current art scene, while positioning itself to both support and be a part of its promising future.

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