

COUNTRY FOCUS
Four Seasons • Guangzhou

Canvas is a newly integrated global art affiliate within the HBA family. A comprehensive art consultancy, Canvas focuses on enhancing exceptional hospitality interior designs with well-conceived and fully-realised art collections. From budgeting and concept planning to procurement and installation, Canvas joins under one collective name three consultancies formerly known individually as International Art Collaborative (Atlanta), Art Group International (LA) and HBA Art (Singapore). They are now also complemented by a brand new division in Hong Kong.

At the Four Seasons Guangzhou, Canvas worked with HBA designers to conceptualise an art programme based on the evolution of form and colour across the arc of the seasons, beginning in the lobby through to the building's peak. In the Sky Lobby, the triple-height space is the base of an atrium which rises more than 30 storeys upwards. Its focal point is a piece by Australian artist Matthew Harding, who created a 3m-tall stainless steel sculpture for this space. This graceful seed-like form is finished in vibrant red, conceived to evoke the spirit of lightness, newness, and renewal of life. The black dais on which it sits is a water feature.

Canvas also collaborated with the client-appointed architects to develop a series of

massive screens — each nearly half a football pitch in scale. These screens create a dynamic concertina effect that provides a visual contrast to the interior. The patterns for the screens take their inspiration from rice fields in spring, capturing the first shoots of the season. As the screens progress higher into the hotel, they reflect the maturing rice plant, its harvest and storing the grain for the winter. These intricately designed, faceted and textured screens organically echo the fractal design of the building itself.

The majority of the 1,300 commissioned pieces were created by emerging and established South Chinese artists, including professor and artist Bai Xiao Hua, well known for his simple yet elegant compositions and unique eggshell inlay technique. Canvas directed a series of Bai's works for the winter-themed executive lounge situated on the 99th floor. In addition, seasonally-themed works by artists Han Ying Ling and Wu Xiao Xun are strategically placed throughout the hotel.

"Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou was a remarkable project to be involved in. When the consultant and client share a vision of the importance of art to such a degree that nearly every piece can be commissioned specifically for the site, the results are spectacular," de Souza notes.

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In the best art
programmes, it's not
only about the pieces
themselves
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Below In the Sky Lobby, the triple-height space is the base of an atrium which rises more than 30 storeys upwards Facing page from top The focal point of the Sky Lobby is a piece by Australian artist Matthew Harding, who created a 3m-tall, stainless steel sculpture in vibrant red for this space • Sculptures by Yang Don Dong in the corridor at the Yu Yue Heen restaurant



China hat-trick for Four Seasons

四季的中國帽子戲法

Rich Chinese traditions meet modern elegance and style at the new Four Seasons Hotel Beijing, located in the Liangmahe area of the central business district, close to the Third Diplomatic Precinct — and once again, art plays a key role.

Passing through a wide façade reminiscent of the city's Imperial Palaces and into the skylit central atrium, Qin Feng's dramatic calligraphic piece entitled *Landscape of Desires* captures the Chinese spirit of *wu* — performance, strength and passion.

In the Tea Garden, Australian artist Jayne Dyer's installation of hundreds of polished steel butterflies soars skyward up the atrium wall, inspired by the famous Chinese folktale *Butterfly Lovers*. Commissioned exclusively for Four Seasons Hotel Beijing, it provides a fantastical focal point for the intimate tables and lush greenery of the space.

Four Seasons Hotel Beijing is the third Four Seasons hotel to open in China in 2012, joining the properties in Guangzhou and Pudong, Shanghai. Four Seasons Hotel Shenzhen, meanwhile, is scheduled to open in 2013.

北京四季酒店糅合了中國深厚的傳統與現代的優雅風格，扎根於城內的商業中心亮馬河區，並與一眾領事館為鄰。在酒店裡，藝術再度擔當關鍵的角色。

在經過有如紫禁城般宏偉的寬闊外牆後，便走進注滿自然光的中庭。這裡陳列了秦風矚目的書法作品《慾望風景》，栩栩如生地演繹中國「武」的精神——實效、剛強和熱情。

在茶園之內，澳洲藝術家Jayne Dyer受由中國著名民謠《梁山伯與祝英台》啟發，特意為酒店創作出數百隻精美的鋼蝴蝶，並沿中庭的牆身向上排列，組成形態生動的作品，在此處形成奇幻的焦點，點綴園內暖心的檯子，以及生氣盎然的植物。

繼廣州與上海浦東的四季酒店後，北京四季酒店成為四季同年在中國開業的第三間酒店。與此同時，深圳四季酒店亦將於2013年開業。