

# editor's letter



## devoted to the arts

The Ritz-Carlton hotels around the world celebrate and support the arts in so many unique ways, we felt it was important now to present some of these experiences in our magazine.

Considering the beautiful objects and collections we display in our hotels and resorts, the local exhibitions we underwrite and partner with, and the launch of the new Ritz-Carlton Film Series (which you can read more about in our profile of cinematographer Joshua Hess on page 154), it's more timely than ever to introduce — or re-introduce, as the case may be — the people who literally design, create and color our world.

What better way to announce this special issue than with an original work of art on our cover? Having the opportunity to review the work of illustrators from around the world was a real treat for me, and when we decided to commission a piece by the international artist Brett Ryder, I was thrilled with the beautiful piece he came up with. The more I look at it and its suggestion that we are virtually limitless in how our imaginations can

fly forth, the more I feel it portrays not only who we are as a brand, but what we truly offer our guests in the way of thrilling experiences in the arts. From Picasso exhibits in our lobbies to nature programs on our beaches to packages that let our guests get behind the scenes at local museums, The Ritz-Carlton celebrates the arts every single day.

When I was in Palm Beach recently, I noticed the unique collection of “shoes” in the presidential suite (anytime I see shoes I am automatically intrigued — what girl is not?). The story behind the design of these shoes and the artist who creates them is fascinating, as is the curation of the glass and sculpture collection at The Ritz-Carlton, Westchester. You'll see those and more about making a hotel room feel more like a home in our story “Hotel, um ... Art?” on page 136.

Deciding which craftspeople to profile for our “In Studio” feature on page 127 was an artistic exercise in its own right. We had to narrow a list of more than 15 fascinating people down to four, and I'm sure you'll like whom we have decided to focus on. I am especially touched by Turkish rug designer Hayk Oltaci's story about how he became involved in restoring these precious works of art.

Finally, though not *technically* part of the art theme, this issue's spa feature does have its artistic elements — and a very special meaning for me. When I was pregnant last year, one of my favorite ways to relax was to enjoy several maternity-specific massages and the VIP treatment one receives at our properties when one is a “nurturer to be.” You'll learn all about that (and the fabulous Mama Mio products that go with these treatments) on page 148. I'm still enjoying the line's Tummy Rub and Shrink to Fit lotions even with no baby on the way.

Have a great summer. We hope to see you around the world,

Jamie M. Hoffman  
Corporate Manager, Marketing  
The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C.