



The Skirvin Hilton

Oklahoma City

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, contact:

Susan Riley – Skirvin Hilton

(405) 702-8505

SusanRiley@SkirvinHilton.com

Historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel Names Nationally Acclaimed Painter and Illustrator as New Artist in Residence

Mike Wimmer Appointed as 2016-2017 Artist in Residence at Oklahoma City's #1 Hotel

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (September XX, 2016)-- The [Skirvin Hilton Hotel](#) is pleased to announce Mike Wimmer as its fifth artist-in-residence. Wimmer, an accomplished illustrator and painter from Oklahoma, will work from the historic hotel's studio space for one year to showcase his artistic talents.

Born and raised in Muskogee, Okla., Wimmer earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1983 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Hartford University in Hartford, Conn. in 2009, where his emphasis was illustration.

Wimmer's artistic work has its own acclaim. From the cover art for Disney's Lion King Soundtrack and telephone book covers, to full-color, full-page advertisements for some of America's largest corporations including RJR Nabisco, Procter and Gamble's Mr. Clean, Huggies Diapers and packaging for Celestial Seasons tea box covers, his work can be seen everywhere. He is best known for his children's illustrations, which grace the covers of more than 200 books and fill the pages of almost a dozen more. Wimmer has over 40 paintings depicting historic subjects in the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Wimmer currently serves as the Distinguished Visiting Artist and Gallery Director for the Oklahoma City University School of Visual Arts, where he develops young minds using his life goal and personal motto – "Learn it, live it, teach it." He serves on the board of the Oklahoma Art in Public Spaces Oversight Committee and the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature Museum in Abilene, Texas among others.

The Skirvin's selection committee, consisting of leaders in the local art community, the Paseo Art Association and The Skirvin Hilton Hotel, selected Wimmer from a distinguished pool of artists.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mike as our new artist-in-residence," said Gerald Rappaport, general manager of The Skirvin Hilton Hotel. "From abstract mosaics, violin making, poetry and encaustics to paintings and illustrations, it's exciting to see our program continue to bring such creative and ambitious talent to the Skirvin and downtown Oklahoma City. I am confident our hotel guests will enjoy this unique and personal artist-in-residence experience."

The Skirvin Hilton Hotel is majority-owned and operated by [Marcus Hotels & Resorts](#), in partnership with [Skirvin Partners in Development](#).

For more information about The Skirvin Hilton Hotel, call +1 405 272 3040 or visit www.skirvinhilton.com.

About The Skirvin Hilton Hotel

The Skirvin Hilton Hotel originally opened in 1911 and has been synonymous with elegance and innovation for the past five generations, hosting oil barons, dignitaries, movie stars, political leaders and presidents ever since. Guests from around the globe have traveled through the downtown Skirvin Hilton to experience its unique sophistication and timelessness. In 2007, Skirvin Partners in Development, Marcus Hotels & Resorts and Hilton partnered on renovating the hotel to its original glory. The reopening event was designated as an official Oklahoma Centennial event and since the renovation, the hotel has earned AAA Four Diamond rating every year and received the Mayor's Development Award for best downtown development. The Skirvin Hilton Hotel is owned and operated by Marcus Hotels & Resorts, in partnership with Skirvin Partners in Development.

The hotel features 225 luxuriously appointed guest rooms, including 20 one-bedroom suites, one presidential suite and 18,500 square feet of premiere meeting and pre-function space. It is home to the upscale Park Avenue Grill restaurant and Red Piano lounge.

The Skirvin was recognized as one of the Best Hotels in the USA by *U.S. News & World Report*, finishing as the #1 Hotel in Oklahoma City and the State of Oklahoma. The hotel remains on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Skirvin Hilton Hotel is located at One Park Avenue in Oklahoma City. For more information, please visit www.skirvinhilton.com and follow the company on [Facebook](#) (www.facebook.com/TheSkirvinHilton) and [Twitter](#) (@SkirvinHiltonOK).

About Marcus Hotels & Resorts

Marcus Hotels & Resorts owns and/or manages 18 hotels, resorts and other properties in the U.S. A leader in the hospitality industry since 1962, Marcus Hotels & Resorts creates asset value for hotel owners through its expertise in management, development and product repositioning, including hotel food and beverage concepts developed by its Marcus Restaurant Group. The company's distinctive portfolio includes city-center meeting hotels, upscale resorts, historic properties, and premium branded and independent first-class hotels. Marcus Hotels & Resorts is an approved operator for all major lodging brands. For more information, please visit: <http://media.marcushotels.com> and follow the company on Facebook and Twitter (@MarcusHotels).