

# HOTEL SILKEN'S PHOTO PROJECT

From the outside, the Hotel Silken, near our historical European buildings, looks like, say, a hotel. But, as soon as you enter the environs, artistic feeling flourishes...

Michael Chia  
and his famous  
circular pictures  
printed on plates  
© Hôtel Silken

**I**n the lobby, where I'm waiting for General Manager Frédéric Hill, I can't believe my eyes. There are pictures everywhere. Later, Frédéric confides that he was told that the hotel is actually the biggest private original photographic museum in Europe, and also that he's facing a difficult situation: there's no wall space left.

## ZOOM ROOM

The hotel hosts its own exhibition space, The ZOOM Gallery, and has photographs everywhere, from corridors to meeting areas. Every room has a picture, along with the artist's resumé. On every door, there's not only a number, but also an artist's name. The shows change four times per year, with the seasons.

## THE PHOTOPLATES AWARD WINNER'S SIX CIRCULAR PICTURES ARE PRINTED ON DINING PLATES

Frédéric explains that every Hotel Silken project is associated with photography. For example, in 2007, the establishment

a 'green' hotel- so he got in touch with professional photographers and asked them to work on a nature theme for the hotel's 2008 calendar.

The most important Hotel Silken photography event is the annual Photoplates Award, which has run since 1996 and went to Michael Chia this year. The winner's six circular pictures are printed on dining plates, which are used exclusively by the hotel for twelve months in its restaurant, 'L'Objectif', before going on sale.

Which means that I have twelve months to wait before I can own my *Happy Rain...*

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**The ZOOM Gallery**  
Michael Chia  
*Happy Rain and Dreams in Dreamland*

