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We're Glad These Hotel Trends Died

by Laura Ratliff • January 29, 2018

And we hope those gross bedspreads stay buried.

It wasn't long ago that many hotels felt... generic, with thin, grimy bedspreads, minibars filled with Jack and Jim, and something that passed for art on the walls. Thankfully, even the most budget-conscious places have worked to upgrade the overall experience. We're prone to nostalgia like anyone else (ice machines, anyone?) but these are the five hotel trends that we're glad to see gone (and what they've been replaced with).

BAD ART

The days of the generic Thomas Kinkade-esque print (or maybe worse, reproductions of Monet's *Water Lilies*) are over, as hotels swap the same generic landscape or flower prints for artwork with local ties.

Leading the charge are hotel groups like [21c](#), which owns works by art-world heavy-hitters like Kehinde Wiley—you may know him as the [artist chosen to paint Barack Obama's official portrait](#)—and Ryan McGinness, whose works incorporate graphic elements from corporate logos. They're displayed around the hotels and in dedicated gallery spaces.

Rooms at [Portland's The Nines](#) include original artwork by students at the nearby Pacific Northwest College of Art, while a little farther afield, [Australia's The Art Series](#) chain doesn't just give you art to look at—it leaves pencils, paper, and art books in your room for when an idea strikes. [Cape Town's Ellerman House](#) has a sprawling collection distributed throughout the hotel that spans two centuries—and a dedicated art guide to show it to you.