



Donna Burgess Creates **Distinctive Art** for Hilton Sandestin's Lobby

BY JULIE ROOT

Capturing the natural beauty of Northwest Florida's picturesque coast was the goal of Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa staff as they looked to brighten the décor in the hotel's lobby area with distinctive, original artwork.

With that goal in mind, it was immediately decided who they would go to for the perfect look. After all, depicting the Emerald Coast vacation experience is second nature to local artist Donna Burgess, who has spent most of her adult life enjoying and portraying the relaxed lifestyle and natural beauty of the place she works in and calls home.

"After the Hilton initially contacted me, I went over to look at the colors used in their lobby and then walked out onto the pool deck," Burgess said. "The rustling of palm leaves in the breeze immediately struck me as something all guests will enjoy during their stay, so I incorporated them into the artwork for the lobby."

Guests checking in at the Hilton Sandestin will notice five large acrylic paintings of palm trees at the hotel's front desk and another behind the bell stand. Titled "Sunset Palms," the series features the vibrant hues of sunset, along with a rich palette of green and blue tones.

"Donna's work often is the first thing our guests see when they visit our hotel, and that's why we commissioned her to create these one-of-a-kind paintings," said Marshall Thompson, Hilton Sandestin's vice president of sales. "Her work has become synonymous with our destination, and our guests often ask if we have prints of the paintings available. They are usually surprised to hear that they can meet the artist and buy prints of the palms within walking distance of the hotel!"

Burgess' signature designs feature scenes of coastal life such as tin-roof beach cottages, animals and children

at play, whimsical marine creatures and colorful tropical plant life. All are on display at her gallery, located in The Market Shops at Sandestin. A collection of the artist's award-winning festival poster designs are also available.

Donna Burgess Galleries is the resort's only one-stop-shop that provides while-you-wait custom matting and quick framing services. Her state-of-the-art, computerized mat cutter allows customers to select their own font style, insert clip art and more – all in just a few minutes.

Burgess recently began a watercolor workshop program that was initially held at the Hilton Sandestin. She plans to hold four three-day watercolor painting workshops per year for all levels of artists. Visit artzbydonnaburgess.com for a schedule of classes and special overnight rates offered by Hilton Sandestin for future on-site programs. 