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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) Alumni to create new Artist Guest Rooms for Albuquerque's Navio Lodge

Open House and Unveiling of Rooms on May 5, 2016 at 5:00 PM

Santa Fe: April 8, 2016 -- Four IAIA Alumni have been selected to transform guestrooms into works of art at **Navio Lodge**, a Heritage Hotels and Resorts, Inc. hotel. This bold artist room project is the first of its kind in New Mexico and has been going on since 2013. "These Native American artist rooms offer our guests a very unique experience unlike anything else in New Mexico," said **Heritage Hotels and Resorts, Inc. CEO, Jim Long**. "Most people experience art in galleries or museum settings. The opportunity for our hotel guests to sleep in a guest room that is an art piece in itself, is one of the most exciting and stimulating experiences anywhere. These artist guest rooms, designed by Native American artists, are deeply rooted in cultural traditions but express themselves in surprising ways. These artist rooms take the hotel guest room experience to another level. "

Acclaimed Native American contemporary artists and IAIA alumni **Ishkoten Dougi, Peterson Yazzie, Geraldine Tso**, and **Estella Loretto** are New Mexico artists that have received local and national attention. Navio Lodge partnered with IAIA to select these featured artists for this project. The Open House is free and open to the public. The Navio Lodge is located at 6000 Pan American Fwy NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Ishkoten Dougi (Jicarilla Apache/Navajo), '96, is from Northern Arizona and Northern New Mexico, and

was brought up with art as a way to put food on the table. Painting and working also in alabaster stone, Dougi creates his works for the future of native art and to reach beyond today's understanding of the American Indian. "I would like the future to have my art to make me happy and feel safe."



Ishkoten Dougi

Peterson Yazzie (Navajo), '05, is a Contemporary artist/educator who uses Navajo culture and his personal experiences as the foundation of his work. Yazzie's painting literally starts with a splash of paint sparked by an idea, the rest is completed with intuition and experimentation. Yazzie also carves what he has coined as "Yei wall sculptures". "My art is informed by my personal experiences and surroundings, through process and experimentation. I approach each piece with an open mind, I find art more exciting if it guides me. Life is filled with positive and negative energies, I find creativity is my key to maintaining balance. Art continues to connect me with amazing people throughout the world, I am forever thankful."



Peterson Yazzie

Geraldine Tso (Diné), '89, was born in Gallup, New Mexico and raised in Standing Rock, New Mexico.

She gravitated towards drawing and color at a very early age. Her parents, both accomplished artists themselves, encouraged her to pursue it. Her artwork consists primarily of southwestern architecture and landscapes which emulate the natural earth tones of the southwest. The beauty of her works embrace a bright surrealistic vision that also include a hint of traditionalism.



Pueblo Ladder by Geraldine Tso

Estella Loretto (Jemez Pueblo), '72, is recognized internationally as one of the finest sculptors living today. Estella's genuine spiritual nature defines her commitment to integrity and authenticity in her art

and in her life. She has studied and trained with mentors including her mother, her grandmother, and most notably with Native American sculptor Allen Houser-Haozous. Estella's work has always reflected her highly internalized spiritual vision of the world, an intimate legacy of her Pueblo background that is manifested in her artistic creations as well as her home which is a sanctuary of beauty.

"To be able to create beauty with my hands is a gift; it is an honor for me to be an artist. My art is inspired by nature, and the beauty of life's unfolding. My art is stylized, colorful, and contemporary, rooted in but not confined by my cultural traditions."



Estella Loretto

