

# A S P I R E DESIGN AND HOME

*seeking the sublime*

SPRING  
2020

earthy  
bound





Mural Artist: Aaron Li-Hill

The mural is located in the bowling alley of Denizen Bushwick (a luxury rental complex in Brooklyn). We started the nonprofit organization OPEN (ODA's Public Engagement in Neighborhoods) in 2017 with the purpose of giving local non-profits the resources they need to develop projects that unite, engage and empower residents of diverse backgrounds. We engaged OPEN to fill Denizen with murals that engaged the neighborhood, including local artists and community opinions on the artwork. The mural was created by artist Aaron Li-Hill, using a mixture of methods. To obtain the rust effect of the wall, the artist used watered-down acrylic latex paint. When the paint is almost dry, a roller is run back over top which removes paint and creates texture. The figures and animals are all handpainted directly onto the wall. Li-Hill's inspiration for the mural is of Native American culture and the environment where the building stood, before settlers and colonizers came to New York.



**Kelley Proxmire**  
Bethesda, MD  
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Kip Dawkins

**Mural Artist: Gracie Wallpaper**

The Gracie Wallpaper is on four walls of the dining room of a client's home in Washington, D.C. The walls include separate handpainted panels, aligned in succession to create the effect of a mural. Every project begins with a hand-drawn sketch of the pattern, designed to fit the particular architecture and clients' specifications. Once approved, a team of artists in the studio in China paints each panel, according to the sketch. Each panel involves 3-4 artists painting different elements, like flowers, birds or leaves. The paints used are an opaque watercolor. In this specific project, the background is a pieced silver ground, made from overlapped sheets of artists' paper. The tree and floral Chinoiserie design is painted in warm sepia tones. Gracie has been in business since 1898 and was the first to bring handpainted Chinese wallpapers to the market in the early part of the 20th century. Early clients included William Haines, Dorothy Draper and Elsie De Wolfe. The whole room is designed around the Gracie wallpaper. The mural effect of the paper creates an elegant setting. – Designer Kelley Proxmire

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Rikki Snyder

**Mural Artist: Raji Radhakrishnan**

The 13' 2" wide x 7' 3" high mural, located in my living room, is based on my photograph of an early 19th-century painting by Louis-Léopold Boilly that hangs in The Met. It is a scene inside the Louvre of people looking at a painting of Empress Josephine being crowned by Napoleon. I wanted to create a Parisian salon perfect for entertaining but also to quietly sit by ourselves and contemplate. While it acts like a large painting, the layering of furnishings in front of it – rather than below a painting that would normally be hung on the wall – made it that much more interesting. The room was also an exercise in juxtaposing the old and the new, the traditional and the contemporary and shows the importance of scale. This is not a very large room, but the sheer size of the mural makes it feel huge. – Designer Raji Radhakrishnan

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Sarah Winchester