

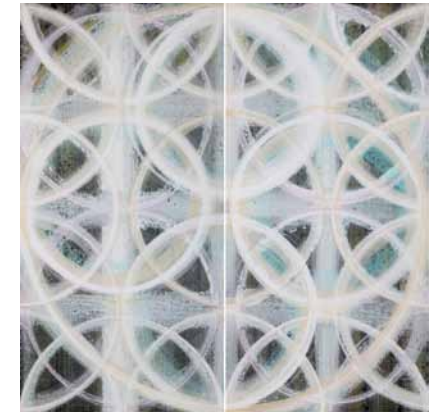


"I have a clarity and focus in Aspen that I've never experienced before," says artist Christopher H. Martin, who creates his reverse-glass paintings from his studio in the mountain town. *Opposite:* While attending Art Week, Martin prefers to stay at Miami's iconic Delano hotel.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID CLIFFORD. OPPOSITE: MORGAN HOTEL GROUP. TOP RIGHT: BOB JOHNSON.

"My paintings have their own unique DNA," says artist Christopher H. Martin. "They're defined by process and color. By fusing different strains of process, a hybrid forms with fantastic results." Martin works in a technique he calls reverse-glass painting, which juxtaposes the clarity of glass with the boldness of color, and creates ethereal works that focus on the abstract balance between painterly expression and organic form. "Glass came about as a primary choice for me," he explains. "I've spent at least 80 percent of my efforts on it over the last 20 years." Martin exhibits locally at his namesake Aspen gallery, which he sees as a "polished extension" of his studio, and draws inspiration from the colors and compositions of stone, water patterns, geodes, wood grains and forest canopies found throughout Aspen. Labeling his work as less literal and more interpretive of his surroundings, Martin finds that living in the mountains has reinforced his methodology and aesthetic. "I'm overwhelmingly enchanted," he notes, "by the sophistication and diverse nature of such a small intimate town." *christopherhmartin.com; 970.925.7649*

*Lenus*, measuring 96" by 96", is an example of Martin's reverse-glass technique, where the first layer of paint is the most visible.



THE LOOKING GLASS

# CHRISTOPHER H. MARTIN



**WORK APPROACH:**

I describe the finished pieces as organic expressionism. My primary tools are similar to those that form the natural patterns and formations in the geography around us: heat, wind, water, time and pressure.

**I LOVE WHAT I DO BECAUSE...**

The pride and ownership of completing a body of work can be overwhelming.

**DESIGN ICONS:**

Elon Musk, John Varvatos, Sergio Pininfarina, Jonathan Ive, Frank Gehry and David Lewis to name a few.

**GREATEST INFLUENCES:**

My mistakes are my greatest influences. They are a constant source of motivation and guidance.

**EVERY ARTIST SHOULD:**

Push an idea until it falls apart and you have to start over.

**FAVORITE HOTEL:**

Miami's Delano during Art Week.

**IF YOU COULD WORK TO ONE SONG, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

"Many Rivers to Cross," by Jimmy Cliff.