



\*Photography is an exact representation of the artwork but varies slightly from actual viewing due to reflectivity and dimensional perspective.

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**Leslie Ann Wigon,**  
Leslie Ann Wigon Art & Design

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### FEATURED PRODUCT



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### ARCHITECT

Baker Barrios Architects Inc.

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### DESIGN

IndiDesign, Los Angeles, CA

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### ARTIST

Leslie Ann Wigon Art & Design

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### GLAZING CONTRACTOR

OKB Commercial

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## JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes

The JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes, nestled in the heart of Orlando, Florida, has one over-arching goal: to provide travelers with a uniquely personalized vacation experience. When the time came to renovate, it was with a clear vision of emphasizing the area's natural beauty while complementing the hotel's original upscale design. Intrinsic to this was the design of the lobby—the ever-important first impression for visitors; the place where expectations are firmly established.

The designers at IndiDesign were determined to make that first impression visually impactful. One that was modern while also suited to the atmosphere—a stage for guests to prepare themselves for the experience ahead. They wanted an artwork installation that speaks to the Florida Everglades. Leslie Ann Wigon of Leslie Ann Wigon Art & Design, was selected to bring this critical design element to fruition.

Over Wigon's career, which spans more than 20 years, she has worked as a curator of custom art features, installations, and hand-painted murals and photographic prints for interior spaces. Wigon brings a decisive eye and sense of space to each custom-designed project, and JW Marriott Orlando was no different. Numerous iterations of photography were considered before she captured the look that now defines the resort. And when it came time to bring the artwork itself to life, there was no question of whom to trust. Not only had Wigon previously worked with GGI, but she also toured the GGI facility, seeing firsthand the state-of-the-art equipment used to fabricate custom glass of all kinds.

The unique challenges posed by this project were those GGI was not only perfectly positioned to meet but exceed. The modern artwork needed to complement the aesthetic of the luxury resort while connecting visually to the environment. GGI's ability to work with large format photography while maintaining color and detail has been proven time and again through a multitude of high-profile projects across the country.

The artwork itself needed to make a statement within the context of the resort's overall design while also harmonizing with the design goals of the renovation. Critical to this was getting the colors to the exact hue the artist desired. The positioning of the artwork in the final installment was also paramount, as the seascape piece dominated the wall space behind the registration counter.

"Reminiscent of the Florida Everglades, the artwork was spread across multiple panes of glass, framed to give the appearance of viewing the seascape through a large window," said Leslie Ann Wigon, artist. "It was crucial to ensure the horizon of the seascape was not obliterated by the front counter and that each section of the artwork was properly aligned. This project was truly a collaborative effort, with GGI communicating directly with the general contractor to coordinate everything needed for the lobby artwork and installation to be successfully completed."

The collaboration with GGI provided the ability to evaluate how the artwork would appear using different substrates and configurations combined with their signature [Alice®](#) Direct-to-Glass printing to realize the full vision of Wigon's art. Through the use of [Mirropane®](#)—a clear, transparent mirror manufactured by Pilkington NSG—GGI was able to achieve the desired reflective quality and depth. The result was a fully tempered solution, exactly what was needed to fuse the ceramic frit ink into the glass for durability and color fastness. The surface of the glass was then back painted to enhance the aesthetic to the final results.



"Having worked with Leslie Ann Wigon on previous projects made this collaborative journey truly seamless," said Spencer Raymond, GGI Product Manager. "Working with photography and original artwork requires a lot of sample submittals and conversations. We were so pleased to have earned her trust for this project through our history of working together."

The process by which JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes came to life was intensive. The project was especially challenging as GGI needed to obtain an exacting balance of color and contrast, all the while maintaining tight control of the opacity level of the digital artwork so as to allow the reflective nature of Mirropane to come through. The computer modeling of the print layers and on GGI's Dip-Tech printer were tested multiple times to create the effects desired by the artist and design team.

The custom fabricated glass incorporates 1/4" (6mm) [OptiWhite®](#) tempered Alice on the second surface, with .060 clear PVB and 1/4" Mirropane® with the reflective coating on surface #3 and back paint on surface #4.

For projects like the JW Marriott Orlando, glass was utilized to mimic oceanic views and create a dramatic statement for guests embarking on luxury vacations. GGI is a specialist in telling compelling visual stories through glass, working tirelessly to precisely match artistic vision.

"The glass artwork makes the lobby sing," concluded Wigon. "It is wonderfully unique. You may see dramatic designs like this elsewhere in the world, but rarely in the United States. The glass completely makes the lobby."

The finished installation achieved the original design intent with a material surface not only visually impactful, but easy to maintain. It also lacks the potential for degradation over time as is often seen in other materials, and as such, will stand the test of time. For the JW Marriott Orlando, the end result is a powerful visual statement for their guests told through large format photography that complements the existing structure and beautifully showcases the artist's work to her exact specifications.

Figure 1: Lobby Glass Configuration

Surfaces of Laminated Glass Configuration

