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**INTERCONTINENTAL BOSTON LAUNCHES NEW INDOOR/OUTDOOR ANIMAL SCULPTURE EXHIBIT BY MA-BASED ARTIST CHRIS WILLIAMS**

***'Wild at Heart' Package Includes Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Boston's Franklin Park Zoo with 10% of Package Proceeds Donated to the National Geographic Society***



*Bronze Giraffe by Chris Williams*



*Bronze Tree Frog w/ Blown Glass Eyes by Chris Williams*

BOSTON - (July 14, 2010) – Committed to the arts and to the environment, the 424-room luxury InterContinental Boston presents its fifth art exhibition since opening in 2006, this one 'Wild at Heart,' an indoor/outdoor animal sculpture exhibition by Essex, Mass.-based artist, Chris Williams. Opening today, this exhibit features 8 large-scale bronze and steel sculptures of numerous animals from tree frogs to giraffes and octopi to owls and will be on display at InterContinental Boston through mid-December 2010. InterContinental Boston is offering a 'Wild at Heart' package starting from only \$399.00 that includes a private behind-the-scenes tour and admission to Boston's Franklin Park Zoo to see wild animals live and a small one-of-a-kind sculpture by Chris Williams with 10% of the proceeds of each package sold donated to National Geographic.

Of the sculptures, a majestic eagle landing at its tree nest graces the Atlantic St. entrance of the InterContinental Boston. The lobby is home to an octopus and seascape with sea anemones and an array of coral, an owl perched in a tree and a tree frog amidst a bamboo habitat. In Sushi-Teq, the hotel's popular sushi and tequila restaurant/bar, hangs an octopus with its hand-blown glass head illuminated and the private dining room in Miel "Brasserie Provençale" is home to a bee. The InterContinental Boston's two acre waterfront promenade graces an austere vulture peering towards the water which is also situated on Boston's Harbor Walk and a gentle 14' giraffe adjacent to Miel's outdoor terrace.

"As one of the leading and newer contemporary hotels on Boston's burgeoning waterfront, we are committed supporters of the arts and are thrilled to present the incredible work by local Massachusetts sculptor Chris Williams," says Tim Kirwan, general manager, InterContinental Boston. "His animal sculptures bring a majestic and whimsical element to our expansive lobby and a not-to-be-missed visual component to the Atlantic Ave and waterfront sides of our hotel. And, with proceeds from our 'Wild at Heart' package benefiting National Geographic, we support their efforts in protecting and sustaining wild animals such as these and our planet."

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Sculptor Chris Williams was born on Cape Ann, Mass. in 1968 and began his life as an artist in the back of his family's metal shop. Chris' family's fabrication business began in NY in the 1940's and in 1959 his grandfather built a workshop in Rockport, Mass. where Chris was dropped off after school to earn his allowance. Years later, Chris worked for his father in his metal machining and fabrication shop where he used to repair old motorcycles. Chris didn't know at that time that metal working could be anything but work, but in 1996, the light came on. He discovered a welder under an old oil covered bench which had a pair of gloves resting on top with all the fingers worn through. He dragged it out and plugged it in and the first spark jumped along with his excitement. It was late fall and the holidays were coming. He wanted to weld together a couple of small figures for his nephews. It was the first time he was making something non-functional -- his first metal art project. From there he decided to try some larger pieces and made a unicyclist and a great blue heron. It was so exhilarating that he began to weld through the night. Now, 14 years later, he works from his home studio in Essex, Mass. focusing on large scale, custom-made, one-of-a-kind bronze and steel animal sculptures along with in-home architectural pieces of art which can be found in numerous commercial and residential locations in the U.S. and abroad. For more information, go to [www.chriswilliamssculpture.com](http://www.chriswilliamssculpture.com).

### **InterContinental Boston's 'Wild at Heart' Package**

Through the 'Wild at Heart' package, InterContinental Boston donates 10% of the proceeds of each package sold to National Geographic. The National Geographic society has funded more than 9,200 research, conservation and exploration projects, and supported geography education-based programs and public events that bring stories from the field to audiences worldwide. As one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations, National Geographic was founded in 1888 with a mission to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge. Today the Society works to inspire people to care about the planet. The 'Wild at Heart' package includes:

- Deluxe accommodations at the InterContinental Boston
- Private behind-the-scenes tour and admission to Boston's Franklin Park Zoo
- A small one-of-a-kind animal sculpture by Chris Williams
- A copy of National Geographic's The 100 Best Vacations To Enrich Your Life
- Overnight parking
- Late check-out (2 p.m.)
- 10% of the proceeds of each package will be donated to National Geographic

Franklin Park Zoo is a 72-acre site nestled within Boston's historic Franklin Park. Here, guests can experience the most innovative and intimate indoor gorilla exhibit in the world. Visitors to the signature Tropical Forest can stand face-to-face with the Zoo's seven western lowland gorillas at one of five glass viewing stations in the state-of-the-art indoor exhibit. While at Franklin Park Zoo, there is also the African lion in the Kalahari Kingdom, the tigers in the Tiger Tales exhibit, the Masai giraffe and Grevy's zebra on the Giraffe Savannah, and the many other remarkable species that call the Zoo home. Not to be missed is the new Aussie Aviary – an interactive exhibit featuring hundreds of brightly-colored budgies (small parakeets). For additional information visit [www.franklinparkzoo.org](http://www.franklinparkzoo.org).

**InterContinental Boston's 'Wild at Heart' package starts from \$399.00** and is based on double occupancy and is subject to availability and will be available through November 2010. To book, call the InterContinental Boston directly at 877-747-BOSTON and mention 'Wild.' The package is also bookable via the GDS: Apollo/Galileo - IC34449, Sabre - IC27993, Worldspan - ICBOSHA and Amadeus - ICBOSICA.

InterContinental Boston, a Four-Diamond luxury hotel which opened in November 2006, is among the newest hotels located on Boston's glistening waterfront. Since opening, the hotel has been committed to the arts and has hosted a variety of shows such as New England's first-ever exhibit featuring sculptures, sketches, lithographs and bas reliefs by Academy Award-winning actor Anthony Quinn; an exhibit of hand-blown glass pieces by internationally-renowned Murano, Italy glass blowing Maestro Afro Celotto; a photography/nautical exhibit featuring images by renowned sailing photographer Onne van der Wal whose photos have graced the cover of nearly every sailing publication around the globe and a Boston Ballet photography exhibit of behind-the-scenes photos taken by Boston Ballet soloist Sabi Varga along with select costumes from the 2009-2010 season.

**About the InterContinental Boston**

InterContinental Boston, is located on Boston's historic waterfront on the site where the Boston Tea Party took place, at the base of the city's financial district and just minutes from Logan International Airport. This AAA Four Diamond luxury 424-room hotel is the first InterContinental hotel in Boston (and New England) and offers SPA InterContinental, a 6,600 sq. ft. spa and health club with indoor pool, *Miel "Brasserie Provençale,"* a Provence-inspired brasserie; *Sushi-Teq,* a sushi and tequila bar and *RumBa,* a rum and champagne bar, named among the "Top 100 Bars in the US" in *Food & Wine's Cocktails '09*. The hotel also offers 32,000 sq. ft. of meeting/function space overlooking the Fort Point Channel, including the largest ballroom in downtown Boston. InterContinental Boston was voted in 2010 by *Yankee* magazine as "Best Room with a View"; named among the "2008 Best Business Hotels" in the world by *Fortune* and *Wallpaper* magazines; voted Best of Boston 2007 as "Best New Hotel" by *Boston Magazine* and named one of ten "Best New Business Hotels of 2006" by *Forbes.com*. For more information on the hotel, visit [www.intercontinentalboston.com](http://www.intercontinentalboston.com) and for reservations call 877-747-BOSTON.

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