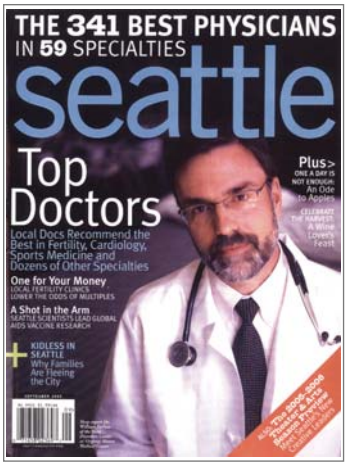

SEATTLE MAGAZINE,
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SCOOP > DIGGING INTO THE SEATTLE SCENE

An eye chart window covering shares space on the second floor of Hotel Max with images by Erin Shaskind

The Artful Lodger

ON A RECENT VISIT to Hotel Max *(620 Stewart St.; 877.956.8500; hotelmaxseattle.com; $129 and up)*, we stepped off the elevator on the fifth floor and came face to face with Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love. Was C-Love in town hanging with her late husband's ghost? Well, sort of. Plastered on the outside of Room 514 is a life-size photo of the late, great grunger, and next door a shot of the equally grungy Love adorns 515. At Max, a new boutique hotel that occupies the former Vance Hotel space, each of the nine floors is home to a different Seattle-area photographer's collection, with black-and-white prints enlarged and plastered to the hallway-facing side of each guest-room door. While rockers captured by Charles Peterson reign on the fifth floor, Roniq Bartanen's images of Paris set a softer tone on the seventh floor. Additionally, more than 250 original paintings (commissioned from 30 Northwest artists) prettify the walls of the hotel's bright, cozy rooms. Max officially opens next month (you can stay there now while they're putting on the finishing touches) and will offer guest services such as high-speed WiFi, a 24-hour fitness center and a pillow menu, which allows you to choose the type of pillow you sleep best on, practically guaranteeing a good night's rest (as long as you don't spend the night wandering the galleries). *Megan Haley*

DAVID PHELPS

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