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HOTEL VALENCIA RIVERWALK WELCOMES LOCAL ARTIST MICHELLE BELTO

San Antonio, TX (September 22, 2009) – Hotel Valencia Riverwalk is pleased to welcome artist Michelle Belto to their famed Citrus Restaurant from October to December 2009. Belto is the latest in a long line of local artists to be featured at Citrus.

Based out of the Texas hill country, Belto is a traditional artist with an unusual twist. She creates her art on canvases which she hand-makes from paper and uses many colored layers of molten beeswax to paint on them. Her work has been displayed all over the US, but is most frequently shown in the San Antonio and surrounding hill country area.

Belto has created pieces specifically for show in Citrus, in a new collection titled "Circle Squared". The signature piece is a 45" x 45" study of white on white, comprised of nine 12" x 12" canvases, which will fill the back wall of the gallery. On the side walls, Belto will introduce her work in color on 16" x 16" canvases, in a stunning example of the way the pigmented beeswax works on her signature handmade paper.

"We are thrilled to have Michelle Belto's work on display," said Amy Trench, Hotel Valencia Riverwalk's Director of Sales and Marketing. "She is a tremendous talent, and each piece is richly unique. She is a great representative of Texas artists, and will be a great addition to Citrus Restaurant."

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Hotel Valencia will premiere Belto's work with a complimentary wine and cheese reception, taking place on October 15th in the Citrus Restaurant wine room, located inside Hotel Valencia Riverwalk, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Complimentary valet parking will also be provided. For more information, please call 210.227.9700.

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About Valencia Group

Valencia Group, a Houston-based company, provides management, development, branding and repositioning services for full-service, independent hotels owned by Valencia as well as third-parties. As with Hotel Valencia Santana Row in San Jose, California, and Hotel Valencia Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX, most Valencia sponsored hotels are set in the cultural heart of each city. Valencia Group hotels fuse globally-inspired modern design with Mediterranean influences, becoming popular destinations for guests and visitors alike. Other Valencia Group properties include Hotel Sorella (Houston, Dallas, TX); Hotel Georgia (Vancouver, BC); Hotel Valencia (Austin, TX) and Lumiere (Telluride, CO). Valencia Group continues to forge its position as a mixed-use anchor with projects where the right balance of residential, restaurant, retail and office coalesce to create full-spectrum accretive value in great urban settings. For more information, please visit www.valenciagroup.com.

About Michelle Belto

Michelle Belto has been an artist and teacher since 1971. She holds a BA degree in Education, teaching certifications in Art and Theater, and an MA from John F Kennedy University in Orinda, CA. Her work as a performer, presenter and visual artist spans more than thirty years, three continents and thirteen publications. She is a traditional artist working in non-traditional media. She creates her own canvases from hand-made paper and then paints on these amazing forms with colored layers of molten beeswax. Her contemporary paintings sit on the wall like sculpture. Rich in texture with a luminous quality that is hard to describe, viewers of her work often can't help themselves from reaching out to touch the art. For more information, please visit www.michellebelto.com or www.michellebelto.etsy.com.