

GALLERIA VIK MILANO

At the heart of Milan's iconic shopping arcade, rooms by artists ring the changes

WORDS BY
 ALIA AKKAM



Images: Galleria Vik Milano

Intimate Vik Retreats in Uruguay and Chile showcase a fusion of art, architecture, and nature, but for their first foray into Europe, founders Alex and Carrie Vik opted for a more urban, yet aptly design-centric locale.

Inside Milan's landmark 19th-century shopping arcade, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, the couple transformed the TownHouse Galleria hotel into the Galleria Vik Milano, highlighting works from more than 90 different artists, including Mario Schifano, Ellsworth Kelly and Julian Lennon.

In the lobby, connections to history and culture are forged through the imposing large bronze cast of Rodin's *The Thinker*, paired with Italian artist Alex Folla's contemporary frescoes depicting well-chiselled mythological figures holding up the world.

Art-lined corridors are essentially micro galleries, building up momentum to the 89 one-of-a-kind guest rooms. United by stucco Veneziano finishes, the spaces each have their own vivid personality. One, for instance, could stay in 407, enveloped in psychedelic florals courtesy of Spanish street artist Felipe Cardefia, or 401, dappled in gold leaf by Elena Trailina and starring dreamy, full-size botanical murals in the bathroom.

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↑ Rooms decorated by Marcello Jori, Felipe Cardefia and Italian street artist Rendo (clockwise from top)