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INSIDE ART

Metropolitan to Host Cézanne's 'Card Players'

By CAROL VOGEL Published: December 9, 2010

INDIANA IN FOUR SEASONS

As a place to put art the Four Seasons Restaurant, at Park Avenue and 52nd Street in the landmark Seagram Building, seems as irresistible a backdrop as it was in the 1950s when Mark Rothko was commissioned to create paintings for it.

While Rothko — after being appalled by the clientele during a visit to the restaurant — never delivered what he made to the Four Seasons, over the years Richard Lippold made a constructivist-inspired sculpture to hang over the bar, and a mural by James Rosenquist once adorned the Pool Room.

The latest art for the Pool Room Terrace (a space often used for private parties) is Robert Indiana's "Hope" silk-screened prints. "They just went up for winter," said Alex von Bidder, one of the restaurant's owners. "My idea is to change the art seasonally."

Mr. Indiana said he was very happy when he was asked to hang his work at the Four Seasons, especially because "it was on the top floor of the Seagram Building that Philip Johnson approved my electric EAT sign for the 1964 World's Fair."

Asked what Rothko — who famously shunned Pop artists like Mr. Indiana — might have said if he had seen the "Hope" prints in the restaurant, Mr. Indiana replied: "I couldn't care less what he would have said. Rothko was never my favorite."