United States Embassy Skopje

ART in Embassies Program

Cover:

Susan B. Howard, Lunar Frontier, 2001-2002
Oil on panel
25 x 30 in. (63,5 x 76,2 cm)
Courtesy of Morpeth Gallery, Hopewell, New Jersey

Welcome

My husband, Zlat, our daughters Alexandra and Anna, and I would like to welcome you to the official Residence of the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia. One of the privileges of being an Ambassador is the opportunity to take part in the State Department's ART in Embassies Program. Created in 1964, it obtains works of art through loan from American artists, museums, and galleries for display in U.S. Ambassadors' residences worldwide.

Selecting the works of art for the Residence has been an experience shared by our whole family. We wanted our exhibition to reflect the vitality and dynamism of the American art scene, through the works of noted contemporary and traditional artists associated with Pennsylvania – the Keystone State.

The exhibition consists of paintings, prints, and photographs representing diverse artistic trends, as well as the diverse ethnic origins of American artists. Images of Philadelphia are shown alongside the landscapes of Pennsylvania, and the portrait of famed inventor, journalist, statesman, and diplomat Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) is displayed in this, the 300th anniversary year of his birth.

Our gratitude goes to the staff of the ART in Embassies Program and to all the artists and others who generously made possible the loan of art work, and to Bob Burnett, Georgi Ristovski and his team, Blagoj Temov, Toni Velkov, and Carol Oakley of the American Embassy Skopje for their great help in putting together this exhibition.

We hope this exhibition will help foster closer contacts and cooperation between the artists of the United States and the Republic of Macedonia, as well as reinforce the friendship between our two countries.

Ambassador Gillian A. Milovanovic

September 2006
Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

April Gornik (born 1953)

"I am an artist that values, above all, the ability of art to move me emotionally and psychically. I make art that makes me question, that derives its power from being vulnerable to interpretation, that is intuitive, that is beautiful."

April Gornik lives and works in New York City, where she has been a resident since 1978. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1953, she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1976. Her paintings are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Modern Art, all in New York City; the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.; the Cincinnati Museum, Ohio; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia; the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas; the Orlando Museum of Art, Florida; and other major public and private collections.

Untitled Landscape, 1996
Lithograph printed in colors
27 x 23 in. (68,6 x 58,4 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Concept Gallery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

David Graham (born 1952)

Traveling the United States, David Graham captures the colorful, sometimes surreal, and often bizarre, in the thoroughly American landscape. Graham seeks out subjects that celebrate America's freedom of expression – in colorful roadside attractions and general oddities; in toys and trompe l'oeil signs found in suburban settings. Chronicling the American scene with his unique sensibility and acknowledging popular forms of American photography – the snapshot, the family portrait, and vacation pictures – Graham brings relevance to the creativity and dreams of the common man.

David Graham was born in Abington, Pennsylvania. He attended the Philadelphia College of Art, now known as The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, in photography. Graham first taught at Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, and now teaches at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He works regularly for magazines such as *Time, Newsweek, The New York Times Magazine, Fortune,* and *Forbes*. His photographs are included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania; the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California.

www.davidgrahamphotography.com

Midge Mattel with Car, 1991
Silver gelatin print
26 ½ x 26 in. (67,3 x 66 cm)
Courtesy Snyderman-Works Galleries, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Kong Ho (born 1961)

Kong Ho utilizes his background as an artist professionally trained in both Chinese and Western painting to make and teach art. Ho is an assistant professor of art at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, Pennsylvania. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Ho attended the Chinese University of Hong Kong for his Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts (1985) and Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, where he earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in painting (1994).

Blue Wings and Orange Spiral and *Blue Spiral and Tiger Jade* exemplify the artist's most recent body of work, the "Spiral Series." Kong Ho derives much of his imagery from the nautilus shell and the Chinese jade disc form "Pi."

Blue Wings and Orange Spiral, undated
Watercolor on paper
18 x 12 in. (45,7 x 30,5 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Bradford, Pennsylvania

Blue Spiral and Tiger Jade, undated
Acrylic on canvas
42 x 42 in. (106,7 x 106,7 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Bradford, Pennsylvania

Susan B. Howard (born 1957)

Susan Howard graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia in 1997, and received her Bachelor of Science degree in journalism in 1979 from the University of Florida, Gainesville. She has exhibited at the Fleisher Art Memorial, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Berman Museum of Art, Collegeville, Pennsylvania; and had several pieces in the Delaware Art Museum's Biennial, Wilmington (2000). In 2002 Howard received third prize in the "Art of the State: Pennsylvania 2002" exhibition at the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Lunar Frontier, 2001-2002
Oil on panel
25 x 30 in. (63,5 x 76,2 cm)
Courtesy of Morpeth Gallery, Hopewell, New Jersey

Indigene (born 1959)

Glimpse from the eXpressway was inspired by the rapid serial views one gets of the Philadelphia Art Museum while driving by on the Schuykill Expressway in Philadelphia. Of her art, Indigene states: "Creating art for me is a process of soul searching rooted in the social, cultural, and spiritual perspectives of women and people of color."

The artist known as "Indigene" (aka Theresa Gaskin) was born and raised in New York City and currently lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Eastern College, Philadelphia, and has a graduate degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

Glimpse from the eXpressway, 2002
Oil on canvas
30 x 40 in. (76,2 x 101,6 cm)
Courtesy of Lawrence O. Spataro, Muskegon, Michigan

Chris Nissen (born 1949)

Chris Nissen graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia in 1980, and previously earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville in 1971. He currently resides in Philadelphia, and maintains a studio in Moorestown, New Jersey. His paintings hang in over 200 corporate collections across the United States, in a number of museums, including the The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; the Cleveland Museum of Fine Arts, Ohio; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond.

North from the Coast, undated
Oil on linen
30 x 80 in. (76,2 x 203,2 cm) diptych
Courtesy of the artist, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

October Solitude, undated
Oil on linen
46 x 54 in. (116,8 x 137,2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Robert Patierno (born 1949)

Robert Patierno states: "Art, for me, is an attempt to make order of chaos. In this sense, my work is observational in nature. What I perceive must be simplified, readjusted, and then a personal image appears. The traditions of the block print help me maintain control of my ideas."

Patierno was a founder of the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, starting the school with other faculty in 1983 and seeing it through its evolution to a four year, terminal degree granting institution. The fine arts department was developed by Patierno, who was chairman for a decade before his resignation in 2003. He has placed prints, paintings, and drawings in the permanent collection of The Royal Museum of Art, Antwerp, Belgium, and the Frans Masereel Centrum Pour Grafiks, Kasterlee, Belgium. The Erie Art Museum; the Lancaster Museum; and the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, all in Pennsylvania, have also collected his work.

Courtesy of Robert Patierno

Good Dog, 2000
Relief print
20 x 26 in. (50,8 x 66 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Manchester, Pennsylvania

Belgian Morning, 2005
Relief print
26 x 20 in. (66 x 50,8 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Manchester, Pennsylvania

Stinehill, 2004
Relief print
20 x 26 in. (50,8 x 66 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Manchester, Pennsylvania

Red Nude by Pool, 1999
Relief print
20 x 26 in. (50,8 x 66 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Manchester, Pennsylvania

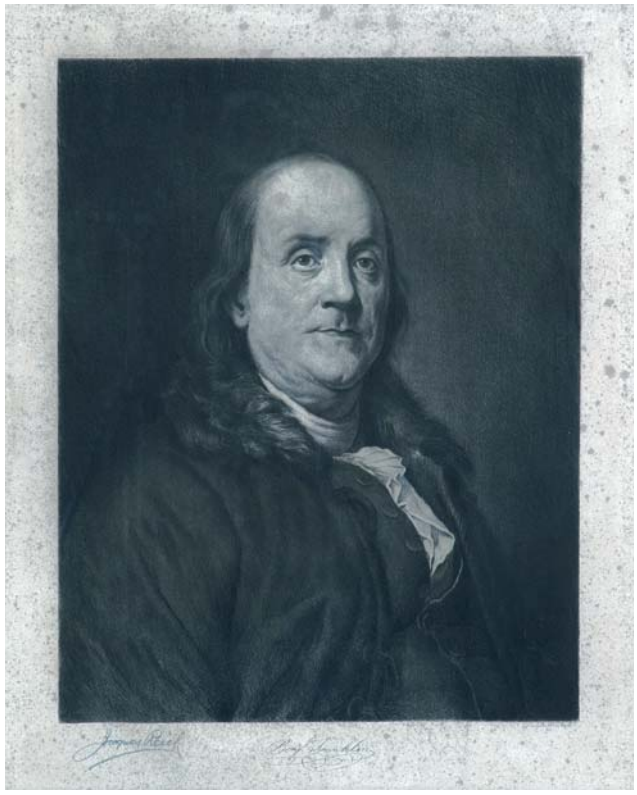
Belgian Grasses, 1999
Relief print
26 x 20 in. (66 x 50,8 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Manchester, Pennsylvania

Wild Grasses, 1999
Relief print
26 x 20 in. (66 x 50,8 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Manchester, Pennsylvania

Jacques Reich (1852-1923)

Born in Hungary, Jacques Reich studied art in Budapest, and in 1873 came to the United States, where he continued his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He devoted most of his time to drawing in black and white, and executed numerous portraits in charcoal. In 1879 he went to Paris for the purpose of continuing his studies, returning to Philadelphia the following year. There he turned his attention to drawing in pen and ink for illustrating books, and to etching. In 1885 he moved to New York and produced all the pen-and-ink portraits for *Scribner's* "Cyclopedia of Painters and Paintings" (John Champlin and Charles C. Perkins, eds. New York: *Scribner's* 1885-7), as well as numerous others for periodicals. He drew the portraits for "Appleton's' Annual Cyclopedia" (New York: D. Appleton & Co.) for 1886, 1887, and 1888. Early in June, 1886, he began to execute the sixteen-hundred portraits for this work, to which task he gave almost exclusive attention until it was completed in December, 1888.

Edited Appleton's Encyclopedia, 2001 Virtualology.com



Benjamin Franklin, undated
Graphic
29 x 23 ¼ in. (73,7 x 59,1 cm)
Gift of Oswald D. Reich to the ART in Embassies Program, Washington, D.C.

Ned Wert (born 1936)

Ned Wert says of his art: "My work has always been characterized by loose brushwork and a strong use of color. The result is spontaneous but the patterns of nature and cultural heritage are an underlying structural element. I admit to the influences of Jasper Johns, Mark Tobey and Paul Klee, as well as Jack Tworkov and Alex Katz, with whom I've studied. My work is simply a way for me to enjoy putting color over color."

Wert received his Bachelor of Science degree in art education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pennsylvania in 1958, and his Masters of Education degree in art education at Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania in 1964.

Lessons for the Soothsayer, undated
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 in. (152,4 x 121,9 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, and Lynden Gallery, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Chris Zmijewski (born 1958)

Chris Zmijewski writes of his paintings: "For the last twenty-one years my work has centered on various aspects of Center City Philadelphia. The images have ranged from streetscape views to aerial panoramas executed from buildings above. A recurring element to all of these works has been the inclusion or depiction of the building known as City Hall. Its presence is always perceived, whether it be visual or implied by the location of the buildings surrounding it. The architecture of City Hall and the placement in Center Square as a site for public buildings by William Penn as part of the master plan of the City of Philadelphia has had a profound influence on a great deal of my work."

Zmijewski attended the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania, both in Philadelphia.

Nearly Noon, undated
Oil on wood
48 x 48 in. (121,9 x 121,9 cm)
Courtesy of Gross McCleaf Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The ART in Embassies Program

The ART in Embassies Program (ART) is a unique blend of art, diplomacy, and culture. Regardless of the medium, style, or subject matter, art transcends barriers of language and provides the means for the program to promote dialogue through the international language of art that leads to mutual respect and understanding between diverse cultures.

Modestly conceived in 1964, ART has evolved into a sophisticated program that curates exhibitions, managing and exhibiting more than 3,500 original works of loaned art by U.S. citizens. The work is displayed in the public rooms of some 180 U.S. embassy residences and diplomatic missions worldwide. These exhibitions, with their diverse themes and content, represent one of the most important principles of our democracy: freedom of expression. The art is a great source of pride to the U.S. ambassadors, assisting them in multi-functional outreach to the host country's educational, cultural, business, and diplomatic communities.

Works of art exhibited through the program encompass a variety of media and styles, ranging from eighteenth century colonial portraiture to contemporary multi-media installations. They are obtained through the generosity of lending sources that include U.S. museums, galleries, artists, institutions, corporations, and private collections. In viewing the exhibitions, the thousands of guests who visit U.S. embassy residences each year have the opportunity to learn about our nation – its history, customs, values, and aspirations – by experiencing firsthand the international lines of communication known to us all as art.

The ART in Embassies Program is proud to lead this international effort to present the artistic accomplishments of the people of the United States. We invite you to visit the ART web site, **http://aiep.state.gov**, which features on-line versions of all exhibitions worldwide.

Acknowledgments

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