

WELCOME

The brilliant art works on display highlight the U.S. Tropics and seek to convey a sense of commonality between two very different countries with distinct cultures and outlooks. The exhibition presents a view of the United States unknown to many in West Africa, despite the region's historical connections to America. The vibrant colors and captivating images of these works clearly strike a chord with all who see them.

Guineans and other West Africans who have seen the exhibition are immediately impressed by images that mirror their own coastal communities in so many respects. Many have said that they can see themselves in these images crafted by talented American artists. For many, their vision of the United States is changed with an appreciation of the diversity of American society.

Ambassador Phillip Carter

Conakry, June 2008

CHERYL KLINE

Cheryl Kline was born and raised in California. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in commercial art from Woodbury University in Burbank, California, and studied figurative art at the Bruchion School of Realist Art in Culver City, California, and in summer sessions from 1998 through 2002 at the Florence Academy of Art in Italy. She has taught at Woodbury University, and currently teaches classical art at her studio. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group shows across the United States and in England, and is in corporate and private collec-

tions in the U.S. and Europe. She is known particularly for her transformative paintings of skies.

www.mcleangallery.com • www.artbody.com

Artist's Statement/Sentiment (Cheryl Kline)

*Ahh...today you surprised me,
you hid your smile until midday
when you flooded my room
like a symphony of fire
leaving me flushed and aglow.
And yesterday evening your mood of passion
exploded with a vermilion embrace,
a reminder of the paradise I seek,
wondering and wanting tomorrow,
for you to tease me more with your
soft cloud whispers on a bed of ultramarine.
Your infinite power is my addiction.
I am in love with you...the sky.*

THE DESIRE WITHIN, 2007

Oil on canvas, 60 x 40 in. (152,4 x 101,6 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Pacific Palisades, California



SHARI ERICKSON (born 1948)

American contemporary painter Shari Erickson gained early recognition as a figurative muralist in her home city of Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating with honors from The Ringling School of Art, Sarasota, Florida, she became an accomplished drawing instructor, potter, and jewelry designer. From early on, her personal focus has been the creative contemplation of the human form. This remains at the heart of her authority, while the exploration of light and bold color always infuses her work.

Among others, USAir and Liat Air have published Erickson's images to promote their Caribbean island destinations. The United States Department of the Interior chose her work for its Virgin Islands Park service publications, and she has designed book covers for Macmillan Caribbean publishers. Although Erickson spends much of her time exploring the Caribbean with artist husband Douglas K. Gifford, many of her alkyd-oil, *alla prima* studies are completed in their Smoky Mountains studio in Cashiers, North Carolina. Erickson's tropical images are currently exhibited throughout the southeast United States and the West Indies.

www.islandstudio.com

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, undated
Oil on canvas, 12 x 16 in. (30,5 x 40,6 cm)

SWAY, undated
Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in. (76,2 x 101,6 cm)

BANANA CABANA II, undated
Giclée on canvas, 30 x 40 in. (76,2 x 101,6 cm)

SOLOMON BEACH, undated
Giclée on canvas, 18 x 24 in. (45,7 x 61 cm)

All works courtesy of the artist,
Cashiers, North Carolina



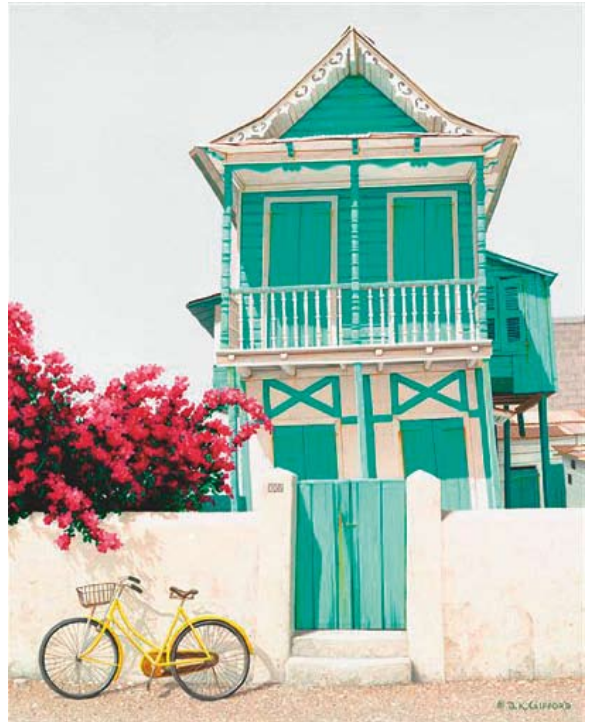
DOUGLAS GIFFORD (born 1948)

Douglas K. Gifford was born in Evanston, Illinois. He began painting in 1967, at which time he transferred from Bucknell University to The Ringling Art School, Sarasota, Florida. After graduating, cumulative awards and commissions led to one-artist shows in New York City; Palm Beach and Naples, Florida; and Nantucket, Massachusetts.

A representational painter of architecture, an early influence on Gifford was Edward Hopper. His constructionist concept of space eventually led to his invention of a three-dimensional technique he calls Stereo Schema Realism, which is unique to him. Recently, his focus has evolved to include the built environments of the Caribbean. "West Indian architecture, whether colonial or native, is obliged to be both practical and exuberant – like the people," Gifford observed. The applied specifics of verandahs, galleries, louvers, and shutters along with the cultural influences of the English, French, African, Spanish, and Dutch blend exotic images. His work speaks to the viewer conceptually as well as literally,

and teaches us to see what we previously only assimilated. Gifford has created his own place in the world of contemporary art, just as he created his own style and technique.

www.islandstudio.com



KEEPIN' COOL, undated
Giclée on canvas, 30 x 24 in. (76,2 x 61 cm)



HAPPY HOUR, undated
Acrylic on canvas, 9 x 12 in. (22,9 x 30,5 cm)



OUT ISLAND COLORS, undated
Giclée on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)

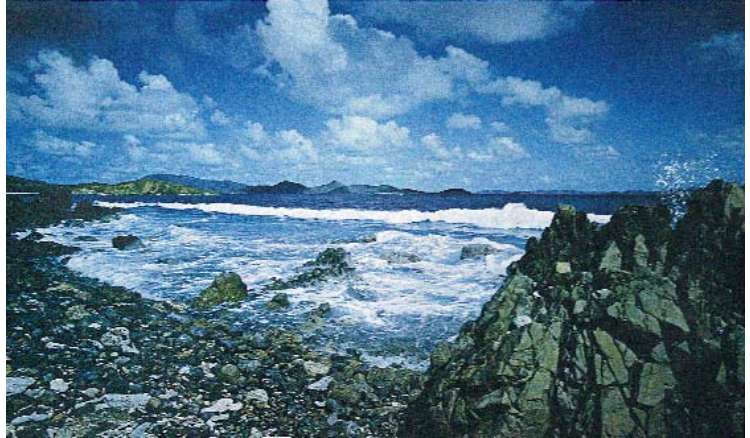
All works courtesy of the artist, Cashiers, North Carolina

FRITZ HENLE (1909-1993)



**HOUSES OF CHARLOTTE AMALIE,
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS,**

portfolio published 1971
Color photograph, 12 ½ x 12 ¾ in.
(31,8 x 32,4 cm) mounted



DRUNK BAY, ST. JOHNS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS,

portfolio published 1971
Color photograph, 12 ½ x 12 ¾ in. (31,8 x 32,4 cm) mounted

Fritz Henle was born in Dortmund, Germany in 1909, and studied photography in Munich. He began a career that spanned six decades in Germany in 1928, and traveled through the Mediterranean, India, China, and Japan in the pre-war 1930s, documenting those travels with his trusted Rolleiflex, before emigrating to the United States in 1936. Passionately involved with the relatively new medium of photography, Henle was at once a successful freelance photojournalist working for *Life* magazine beginning in 1937, a top fashion photographer in New York during the 1940s and early 1950s, and a portrait photographer sought after by notables of the time. He was also a well traveled documentary photographer whose work took him to Asia in the pre-war 1930s, and later to Mexico, Paris, throughout the United States, and to the Caribbean in the late 1940s – where he traveled the islands before making his home on St. Croix in 1958.

Tirelessly prolific, Henle published nineteen books of his work, from his first on Japan in 1936, to his photo essay on Catalan cellist and conductor Pablo Casals at age ninety-five in 1975. His photographs were published over the decades in countless magazines, among them cover stories for *Life*; fashion editorials shot for *Harper's Bazaar*, *Mademoiselle*, *Town & Country*, and others; features in photography periodicals; and illustrations in the *Travel* section of the *Sunday New York Times*. Numerous one-person exhibitions of his photographs, beginning with *This is Japan* in Tokyo in 1936, helped to establish him as a creative visionary with an exceptional technique, a keen sense of striking composition, and a determination to capture the beauty in life. Arguably one of the best known photographers in America by the mid 1950s, Fritz Henle, who died in 1993, has been described by the late photo historian Helmut Gernsheim as the last of the great classical photographers.

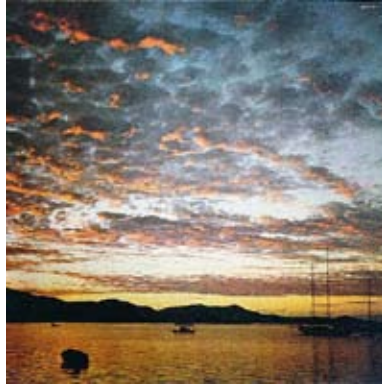
www.fritzhenle.com

"Fritz Henle, 83, Dies; Travel Photographer,"
Obituaries, *The New York Times* (February 5, 1993)

FRITZ HENLE (1909-1993)



**NEAR MARY'S FANCY, ST. CROIX,
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS,**
portfolio published 1971
Color photograph, 12 ½ x 12 ¾ in.
(31,8 x 32,4 cm) mounted



**CHRISTIANSTED HARBOR, ST. CROIX,
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS,**
portfolio published 1971
Color photograph, 12 ½ x 12 ¾ in.
(31,8 x 32,4 cm) mounted



**SUNSET ON ST. JOHN, LOOKING
TOWARD ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN
ISLANDS,** portfolio published 1971
Color photograph, 12 ½ x 12 ¾ in.
(31,8 x 32,4 cm) mounted

All works courtesy of the ART in Embassies Program, Washington, D.C.; anonymous gift

THE ART IN EMBASSIES PROGRAM



Founded in 1964, the U.S. Department of State's ART in Embassies Program is a unique blend of art and diplomacy. Through exhibitions with diverse themes and content, ART presents more than 3,500 original works of art by U.S. citizens in a variety of media and styles. They are obtained through loan from sources that include museums, galleries, corporations, artists, and private collectors, and displayed in the public rooms of some 180 U.S. Embassy residences and diplomatic missions worldwide.

The ART exhibitions are a source of great pride to U.S. ambassadors, assisting them to reach the host country's educational, cultural, business, and diplomatic communities. 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 American art first-hand. Detailed information about the Program may be obtained by accessing the ART web site, <http://aiep.state.gov>.

COVER: Douglas Gifford **HAPPY HOUR**, undated
Acrylic on canvas, 9 x 12 in. (22,9 x 30,5 cm). Courtesy of the artist, Cashiers, North Carolina

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UNITED STATES EMBASSY
CONAKRY, GUINEA



ART IN EMBASSIES EXHIBITION