

# Introduction

We are delighted to welcome visitors to our home with distinctive works by American artists. The few works we are fortunate enough to display merely hint at the diversity and creativity American artists have to offer, but we hope that they will remind all our guests – whatever their nationality – of the universal appeal of creative art.

Appreciation of the natural world is an important theme linking together the works we chose to display. For both Guyanese and Americans, wilderness is an important part of our national identity. Americans have long been fascinated by untamed natural landscapes, and continue to preserve some of our most distinctive environments through the National Park System. Guyana boasts some of the wildest, most remote, and most beautiful places in the world. Conservation areas like Kaieteur National Park

and Iwokrama Reserve can preserve some incredible natural gems for generations of Guyanese to come. Although the works we have chosen may not display Guyanese scenes, the artists' capturing of changing skies and natural panoramas reminded us of Guyana's wide horizons, spectacular sunsets, and great natural beauty.

We hope that all of our guests will enjoy the works we have selected. We are grateful to the ART in Embassies Program and to the generous lenders who make this program possible.

**Ambassador David M. Robinson  
and Mrs. Donna Robinson**

*Georgetown  
June 2007*

## 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 ART 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 art lent by United States 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 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 multi-media installations. They are obtained through the generosity of lending sources that include U.S. museums, galleries, artists, institutions, corporations, and private collectors. 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 effort to present the artistic accomplishments of the people of the United States. We invite you to visit the ART website, <http://aiep.state.gov>, which features on-line versions of all exhibitions worldwide.

## GRAY DODSON born 1939

"My work is a study of my surroundings and my response to them, visually and viscerally. There is an energy exchange between the painter and object of observation, which, when rendered in paint, is capable of transcending mere description. I have a deep reverence for nature and strive to bring its spiritual quality to the paintings. Working quickly, on site, I start from the first and strongest impression, adjusting composition and color as the painting develops. Particularly important are color relationships and contrasts between darks and lights as they relate to

the emotional content of the work. Often a painting takes off in a direction of its own and I find there is much to be learned in the process, even if the result is far from my original intention."

Gray Dodson was born in Tidewater, Virginia, and spent most of her life there. After obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, she moved to Nelson County, Virginia, in 1995, and began painting full time. Her plein air pursuits have taken her to France, Italy, Mexico,

Canada, and throughout the United States. She has been awarded fellowships at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Her work is found in numerous corporate and private collections throughout the country and abroad.

[www.graysdodson.com](http://www.graysdodson.com)



**Misty Morning**, 2005  
Oil on linen, 18 x 24 in. (45,7 x 61 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Arrington, Virginia



**Greening**, 2002  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 36 in. (61 x 91,4 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Arrington, Virginia

## CHET KALM born 1925



**Facade**, 2005

Oil on canvas, 18 x 36 in. (45,7 x 91,4 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

"[My paintings derive] from the imagination. However suggestive they may be as regards texture, surface, foliage and branches – they are fabrications in which light is altered, shadows are shifted, images are truncated or reversed – daring to conjure up the real through interpretation. I am convinced that the seam dividing the 'actual' and the 'imagined' offers many possibilities still to be executed in landscape painting."

Chet Kalm was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He studied at the Yale University School of Fine Arts, New Haven, Connecticut, and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and Académie Colarossi, both in Paris, France. In

1953, he moved to New York City where, inspired by the poetry of Czeslaw Milosz, he painted in both expressionist and abstract styles, and was an administrator and teacher at Parsons School of Design. After relocating in 1991 to the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts, he devoted himself to painting and adopted the region's landscape as his subject matter. Over the course of his career, he has had over thirty solo exhibitions in the United States and Europe, and has participated in numerous group shows throughout the United States. His work is represented in many public and private collections.

[www.theharrisongallery.com](http://www.theharrisongallery.com)

## SARA LINDA POLY born 1945



"I have always been at home under the open sky, loving the outdoors and nature. Studying, observing and expressing this love in my art are my joy. I am taken by the subtle and dramatic changes in the weather and seasons and how they affect the quality of light. To paint the landscape is to bond with the natural world, to feel its rhythm and to sense its every form. It is like coming home. "

Sara Linda Poly was born in 1945. She began her serious art studies in her early thirties while living in Virginia and Maryland where she attended college. She went on to study with various local and nationally recognized artists. Known for her sweeping skies and landscapes, Poly draws inspiration from local eastern scenes, western vistas, and other locations to which her love of plein air painting has taken her. She creates paintings from small sizes to very large

murals and commissions. She also teaches outdoor landscape painting classes and workshops. Presently she lives in Arlington, Virginia and is a member of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters of America, and the Oil Painters of America.

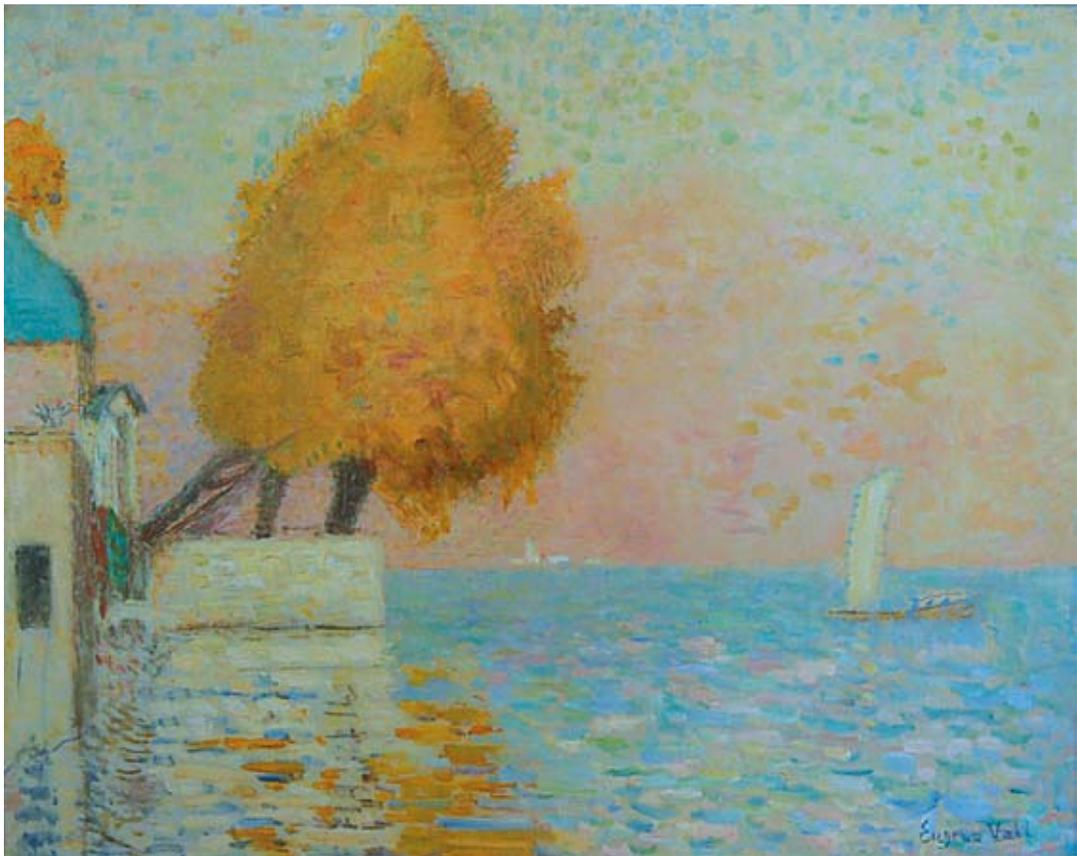
**The Evening Sky**, 2005  
Oil on canvas, 22 x 28 in. (55,9 x 71,1 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Arlington, Virginia

[www.saralindapoly.com](http://www.saralindapoly.com)

## EUGENE VAIL 1857-1934

Son of a French mother and an American father, Eugene Vail maintained strong ties with Europe and the United States throughout his life. He was born in St. Servan, France, and as a young man, studied both in Paris and in New York City with William Merritt Chase and Alexandre Cabanel, among others. Vail painted images of peasants and fishermen in villages and towns throughout Europe, and his realistic, anecdotal works were widely exhibited. He won

awards in Berlin and Munich, Germany; Antwerp and Liège, Belgium; and St. Louis, Missouri. In 1894, he was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. After many successful years of producing work in the academic "Salon" tradition, Vail underwent a change of style, gradually adopting a looser and more impressionistic manner. He became known for his light-hearted scenes of people engaged in winter sports. Vail died in Paris, France, in 1934.



**The Tree at the Village Carlotta**, c.1901

Oil on canvas, 37 ½ x 45 in. (94 x 114,3 cm)

Courtesy of an anonymous donor to the ART in Embassies Program, Washington, D.C.



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