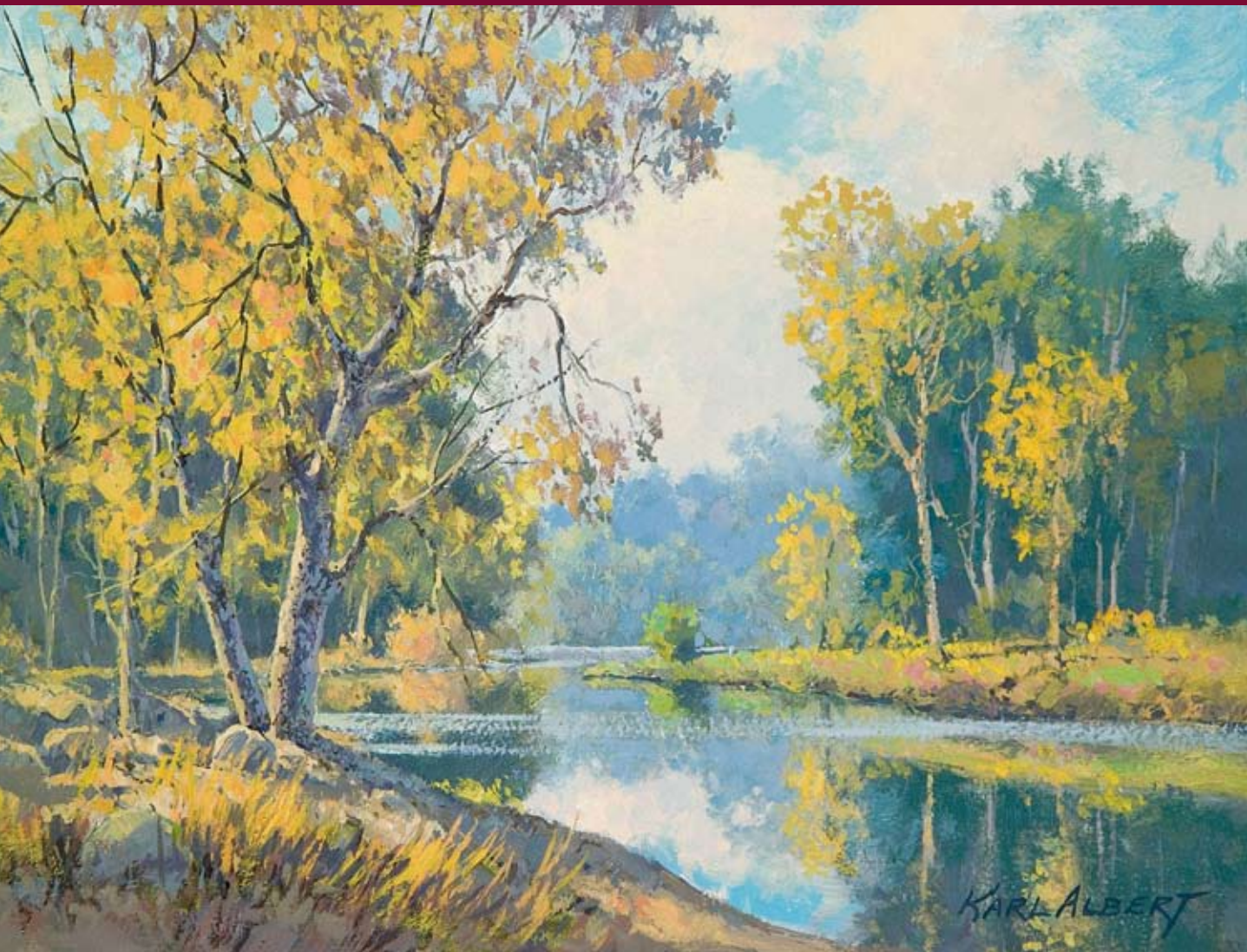


United States Embassy **Kampala**, Uganda

ART in Embassies Exhibition



COVER

Karl Albert, **Quiet River, Sierras**, undated

Oil on canvas, 9 x 12 in. (22,9 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Diane Wittman Punteri, Nevada City, California

INTRODUCTION

For our ART in Embassies exhibition we have chosen to pay tribute to the spirit and strength of community and volunteerism by displaying in our Uganda residence works of artists from Nevada County, California, our home, and a community that exemplifies that spirit.



Alexis de Tocqueville was a French historian and political scientist who toured the United States in the 1830s to study our young society and new system of government. His book, *Democracy in America*, was the first impartial study of the nature of the new nation. He observed that the great strength of America was in our ability to associate with people who were different from us to work together to find common ground and to achieve common goals in order to form communities. "Americans of all ages, all stations in life and all types of dispositions are forming associations," he wrote. Susan and I have found that this culture of community and volunteerism, of people joining together to help each other, is an American trait even today, and nowhere more so than in our home town in rural Nevada County, California.

The citizens of Nevada County for years have lent helping hands to neighbors and strangers alike, recognizing a need and banding together to solve problems and to make a difference. We are particularly happy to see that their reach and impact extend far beyond county borders. For example, a construction engineer from Nevada County rushed to Pakistan after the devastating October 2005 earthquake, to see how he could help. His neighbors donated thousands of dollars to support his efforts to build emergency housing for the displaced homeless. A Nevada County doctor and his wife have established a clinic here in Uganda to minister to the health needs of some of the neediest. The outpouring of support for this clinic from the people of Nevada County has been remarkable. Students, business leaders, homemakers, and physicians have all traveled to Uganda at their own expense to volunteer their services at the clinic. And those who cannot travel, volunteer their time and labor back home to raise money and other material support for the clinic. These are just two examples of the sense of community, the self-help spirit that de Tocqueville recognized as one of the great strengths of the United States.

We are deeply grateful to the generous members of the community who offered to share with us, and you, some of their art work. And we are particularly appreciative of artist Susan Barry who volunteered to help identify artists who would be representative of Nevada County. As the famous American author F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, "America is a willingness of the heart."

Ambassador Steven A. Browning and Susan Browning

*Kampala
August 2007*

KARL ALBERT | 1911-2007

Born in Halstead, Kansas, Karl Albert became known for his paintings of the High Sierra. He grew up in Wyoming and began painting about 1930 while working as the postmaster of Oro Grande, a small town in the Mohave Desert. He first studied with Edgar Payne and Sam Hyde Harris and then attended the Los Angeles Art Center in California. He spent a year in Mexico and then in the late 1940s, moved to southern California, becoming an active artist in Long Beach and later in Alhambra.

Before 1960, Albert did a lot of plein air landscape painting but then switched to a tighter, studio painting style. He now lives in Nevada County, and still discusses painting avidly with younger artists, including his daughter, Diane Wittman Punteri.

www.redferngallery.com/bioKarlAlbert



Lake Tahoe, Eagle Lake Falls, undated
Giclée print from 1957 painting, 48 x 60 in. (121,9 x 152,4 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Diane Wittman Punteri, Nevada City, California

KARL ALBERT | 1911-2007



High Sierra Lake, undated
Giclée print, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Diane Wittman
Puneri, Nevada City, California



Quiet River, Sierras, undated
Oil on canvas, 9 x 12 in. (22,9 x 30,5 cm). Courtesy of the artist and Diane Wittman
Puneri, Nevada City, California

FRANCESKA ALEXANDER | born 1955



Franceska Alexander has been a resident of California for her entire life.

“My personal attempt to a peaceful existence has translated the easiest through the doorway of creativity and most often with the use of oil paint. Having a very creative mind has created an interesting story. My personal challenge is to create with color and form and the play of light. The results of my working with oil show paintings of a conscious contemplative nature. Throughout my journey, my earliest memories, my longing and impulses have been to create artistically. At different times I have studied with artists amidst my entrepreneurial careers. It is now at this 50 year mark, that I feel compelled to commit my energy to continuing the challenge of translating feelings and experiences with paint. It is this place where I naturally calm and experience the inner peace and vitality of creation.”

– Franceska Alexander, 2006

Pear, undated
Oil on canvas,
12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)
Courtesy of the artist,
Nevada City, California



Sunset, undated
Oil on canvas,
27 x 33 in. (68,6 x 83,8 cm)
Courtesy of the artist,
Nevada City, California

SUSAN BARRY | born 1947

“My love for nature and the out of doors is reflected in the watercolor landscapes I enjoy creating. I find they reflect my history in Yosemite and all the diverse landscape textures California offers. I do not have a choice when it comes to this passion to paint nature; it is as natural as breathing. It is my life.”

Susan Amanda Barry is a native Californian and thirty-six-year resident of Nevada County. She studied art in San Diego, California before moving north to assist her husband in the creation and development of the first aluminum frame snowshoes. An illustrator and watercolorist, the artist has taught wet-into-wet watercolor workshops throughout the state



to adults as well as children of all ages. Her current technique uses only sticks and flat objects to move the pigment on the paper.

Barry volunteers as curator of the galleries in the Center for the Arts, located in Grass Valley, California. She is currently owner of an advertising agency, Vice President of Pioneer Arts, Inc. in Nevada County, and co-director of the John Muir Mountain Day Camp. Her work has appeared in many juried and invitational exhibitions and shows, and is in the permanent collection of Le Conte Memorial Lodge, Yosemite, California. She currently exhibits in galleries throughout Northern California and has painted wine labels for the Muir Hanna Winery.

Falling Waters, 2006

Watercolor on paper done with stick and credit card, 13 x 11 in. (33 x 27,9 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Nevada City, California

PHILLIP BROWN | born 1944

“In the tradition of the Hudson River School, I attempt to capture moments and places along the branches of the Yuba River and its watershed in the Sierra Nevada Mountains with the purpose of recording them and increasing their public importance as areas to respect and save.”

Phillip Brown received his Bachelor of Arts degree in art and art history from the University of California, Davis, and his Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from Mills College in Oakland, California. He has been an assistant for painting and drawing at the California State Summer School for the Arts and self-employed as a commercial

artist and typesetter. His work has been exhibited at the Crocker Art Museum's Biennial in cooperation with the Kingsley Art Club, Sacramento, California; Memphis College of Art, Tennessee; Berkeley Art Center's National Juried Exhibition, California; and locally at the Center for the Arts, the North San Juan Cultural Center, and Sierra College, Nevada County, California. He is currently a part-time instructor in art at Sierra College.

South Yuba River: Edwards Crossing, 2001
Oil on Canvas, 34 ½ x 39 ½ in. (87,6 x 100,3 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Nevada City, California



YVON DOCKTER | born 1954

“I learned from my teachers to enjoy gathering indigenous materials in order to create strong clay bodies and striking and unusual glaze effects. Nevada County is 75 percent clay, which greatly pleases our local ceramic artists. My sculptural work has a primitive flavor.

I have been using the Raku firing process along with pit firing, sawdust firing and stoneware high fire for the past 25 years.”

– Yvon Dockter



Pear and Kiwi, undated
Ceramic, raku fired
Pear: 16 x 18 in. (40,6 x 45,7 cm)
Kiwi: 12 x 14 in. (30,5 x 35,6 cm)
Courtesy of the artist,
Nevada City, California

GREG LUDLUM | born 1956

Greg Ludlum was born in Glendale, California, in 1956 and grew up in an artistic family. But it was not until the 1970s that he devoted much of his time to darkrooms and the potter's wheel. Also during this period, he was employed by a framing studio in southern California. This allowed him to hone his framing skills while rubbing elbows with great artists and the owners of priceless art – a great influence to a budding artist.

In 1974 Ludlum moved to Nevada County, California, and in 1979 opened a sign shop that he and his wife still operate today. His artistic outlet has been the design of signs and graphics, but he finds his imagination unbridled through his sculpture and fine art creations.

Ludlum's interests are in two areas: one is the bright abstract washes he describes as "Splatter Art," and the other is the sand and hand carving of wood and slate. He has chosen natural slate as his preferred medium because of the pre-historic connection to the creation of this beautiful layered palette. Slate is formed when sediments containing clay and silt, laid down in horizontal beds, formed shale over several hundred million years. Shearing forces caused the shale to mix with many minerals under enormous heat and pressure. The result is slate deposits that can be up to a half mile thick. The presence of trace minerals and oxides determine the color of the piece, and occasional traces of ancient plant and fossil remnants provide a uniqueness found in no other medium.



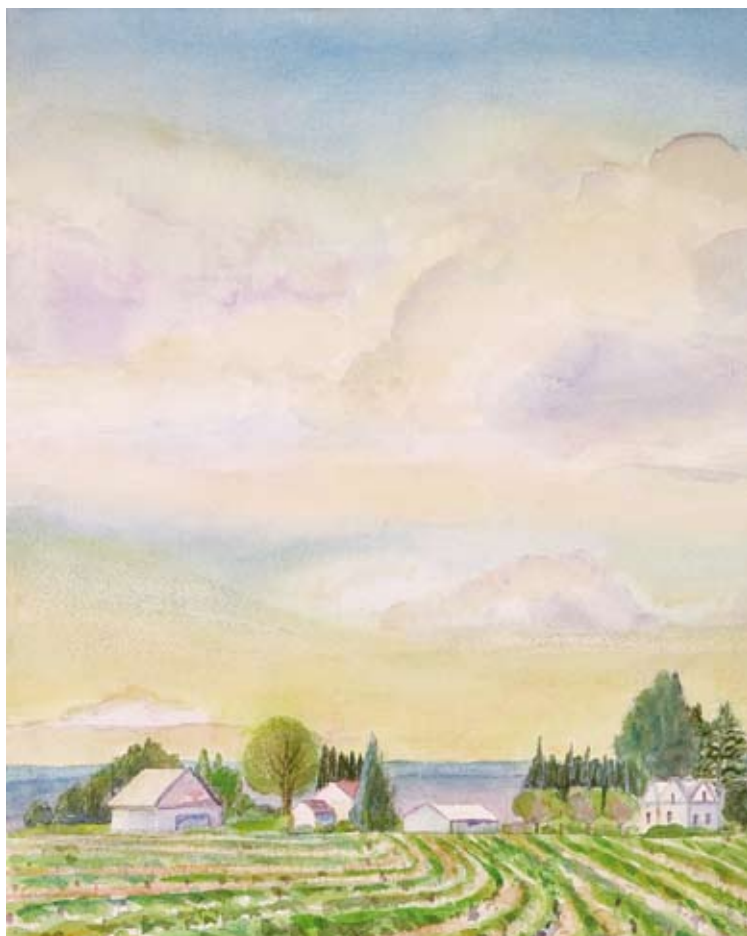
Frog Framed, 2006
Carved stone, 20 x 16 in. (50,8 x 40,6 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Grass Valley, California

DIANE WITTMAN PUNTERI | born 1954

After working as the director of a gallery on the plaza in Santa Fe, New Mexico, then as owner of her own gallery – Three Feathers International Gallery of Fine Arts – Diane Wittman Punteri returned after twenty years to painting, the love of her life. Punteri and her family moved to Tuscany, Italy, in 1994, remaining until 2003. She showed her work and entered competitions throughout Italy, always mindful of her Native American roots in New Mexico.

Punteri loves to paint en plein air, noting: “I love to take my French easel and set up outdoors on location. My work reflects emotions depicted in the colors I use.” There is a depth of color and true earth-bound simplicity in Punteri’s paintings. She is always mindful of the “wholeness” of the finished piece. Natural light is another key factor. She is also mindful of the color and form of her Native roots and the solicitation of awe for the wonderful landscapes she depicts, of the vastness of depth she loves to portray.

Punteri lives and works in northern California with her Italian husband and their three sons.



California Valley Skies, undated
Watercolor on paper, 30 x 21 in. (76,2 x 53,3 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Nevada City, California

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 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 first-hand 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 **Washington** Anne Johnson, Director, ART in Embassies Program • Robert Soppelsa, Curator • Rebecca Clark, Registrar • Marcia Mayo, Publications Editor • Sally Mansfield, Publications Project Coordinator • Amanda Brooks, Imaging Manager **Kampala** Kim Murphy, General Services Officer (GSO), and members of the GSO staff **Vienna** Nathalie Mayer, Graphic Designer • Designed by Global Publishing Solutions



Published by the ART in Embassies Program
U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.
August 2007