



### The ART in Embassies Program

Founded in 1964, the U.S. Department of State 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 firsthand. Detailed information about the Program may be obtained by accessing the ART web site, <http://aiep.state.gov>.

### Introduction

*Namaste* and welcome to the Ambassador's Residence in Kathmandu, Nepal. The opportunity to see the works of creative Americans in my home gives my guests a window into the minds of individual Americans and a way to begin conversation. American art, with its diverse themes and content, represents one of the most important principles of our democracy: freedom of expression.

Delighted to participate in the ART in Embassies Program, I chose a selection of works by American artists that speak of nature and spirituality. I think Nepali viewers can appreciate the lush forests and majestic mountain ranges captured in these paintings and photographs and be reminded of the natural beauty their own country has in common with the United States of America. The verdant and tranquil landscapes of Jim Condron, Harry Pattison, Helen Eakins Bowen, and Gus Foster are peaceful to look at and a pleasure to contemplate. In Nepal, a country also graced with dense forests and towering peaks, nature and natural resources are central to daily life – development, politics, tourism, conservation, business, culture, and national identity.

I am pleased to offer guests to my home the pleasure of enjoying these American works of art, and I am grateful to the ART in Embassies Program and the generous artists and lenders who make this program possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy J. Powell".

Ambassador Nancy Powell

Kathmandu • July 2008

## Helen Eakins Bowen

Very little is known about twentieth century painter Helen Eakins Bowen. She was born in Bluefield, West Virginia, and later studied at the Art Students League in New York City. She was a member of the Art Students League, as well as of the American Artists Professional League and the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, all in New York City, where she exhibited her work. Her exhibition history also included the Allied Artists of America and the National Arts Club, both in New York City. She was especially active in the 1960s in New York City.



**Monhegan Surf – Monhegan Island, Maine**, undated + Oil on canvas  
24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm) + Courtesy of the ART in Embassies Program,  
Washington, D.C., gift of Helen Eakins Bowen

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## Jim Condron    born 1970

“Painting is for me a simultaneous act of outer and inner contemplation. The landscape is my subject, but is more importantly a means for self discovery. My view of nature is not sentimental, but reverent. I paint a particular place to give expression to my experience of it, distilling that experience to its essence.

I learned to paint my internal experiences with the landscape... I no longer tried to paint ideas or images of what I was seeing. I would look at the landscape, internalize what I was seeing, and make a mark. I would look in, look out, and make a mark, until I created an abstract image.”

“Artist Fuses Spirituality, Nature in Paintings,” *The Baltimore Sun*, May 1, 2005

Jim Condron was born in 1970. In 1992 he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and art from Colby College, Waterville, Maine. Between 1992 and 1995, he studied at the The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture, and in 2004, he received his Master of Arts degree in painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. He has participated in group and solo exhibitions at Cornell University, Willard Straight Hall Gallery, Ithaca, New York; the Cahoon Museum of American Art, Cotuit, Massachusetts; and the College of Notre Dame, Gormley Gallery, Baltimore, among other institutions. His work can be found in private and public collections in the United States, including Kramon and Graham, P.A., Baltimore; the Long Beach Museum of Art, California; and the College of William and Mary, Marshall Wythe School of Law, Williamsburg, Virginia.

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

## Jim Condron



**Williamsburg Sunset – Purple**, 2004 + Oil on canvas  
52 x 84 in. (132,1 x 213,4 cm) + Courtesy of the artist,  
Owings Mills, Maryland

**Birches Night**, 2006 + Oil on canvas  
72 x 47 in. (182,9 x 119,4 cm) + Courtesy of the artist,  
Owings Mills, Maryland

**Day Birches**, 2007 + Oil on canvas  
66 x 88 in. (167,6 x 223,5 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Owings Mills, Maryland



## Gus Foster born 1940

"My photographs of the American Rockies exhibit a body of work that evolved from my enjoyment of outdoor life, and from the outdoor experiences that shape and give focus to my life. Artistically, I have always liked the 360-degree panoramic photograph, especially from a conceptual standpoint because nothing is left out of its frame. In a wilderness landscape, a panoramic camera is a unique tool with which to record a scene that extends to infinity from all points on the compass, but it can only begin to suggest the spectacular reality of the mountain peak experience." *Gus Foster*

Gus Foster was born in Wausau, Wisconsin, in 1940. He graduated from Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, in 1963, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history, and worked for ten years as Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota. In 1972 he moved to Los Angeles, California, to set up his own photographic art studio, and has lived and worked in Taos, New Mexico, since 1976. Foster makes two or three mountain treks each year to photograph the highest peaks in the United States. He has participated in group and solo exhibitions throughout the United States, including the Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado; and The Albuquerque Museum, New Mexico. His work can be found in private and public collections in the United States, the Czech Republic, and Latvia.

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



**Mount Sneffels** (Colorado), 1986 + Color photograph + 17 x 73 in. (43,2 x 185,4 cm) +  
Courtesy of the artist, Taos, New Mexico



**Point Sublime** (North rim of the Grand Canyon, Arizona), 1986 + Color photograph + 17 x 73 in. (43,2 x 185,4 cm) +  
Courtesy of the artist, Taos, New Mexico

## Harry Pattison born 1953

"Creation and loving are tied together. I love nature. No peoples have grown closer to their land than Native Americans. They have been my teachers. I wish to know nature as well as they do, so I paint pictures. This is why. They say that with all things and all beings one should be as relatives." *Harry Pattison*

Harry Pattison's repertoire includes oil paintings and drawings in various mediums as well as some hand-painted ceramic tiles and commissioned murals. His subjects range from landscapes, seascapes, figures, American Indians, and portraiture, to the wildlife of the Americas. Based in Lincolnville, Maine, he travels regularly and has painted on location in nearly all fifty states.

<http://mainearts.maine.gov>



**Redwood Forest**, undated + Oil on canvas + 48 x 82 in. (121,9 x 208,3 cm) +  
Courtesy of the ART in Embassies Program, Washington, D.C., gift of Abbott Pattison



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# UNITED STATES EMBASSY KATHMANDU



ART IN EMBASSIES EXHIBITION