

The background of the entire page is a detailed oil painting of a rugged coastal scene. In the foreground, dark, craggy rocks are scattered across a sandy beach, with some small pools of water. The middle ground is dominated by powerful waves crashing against a rocky shore, creating a massive plume of white foam. The water is rendered in various shades of blue and green, with visible brushstrokes. In the background, a range of jagged, grey mountains rises against a sky filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The overall mood is one of natural grandeur and power.

United States Mission to the  
United Nations Agencies in Rome, Italy

ART IN EMBASSIES EXHIBITION

COVER:

Jack Wilkinson Smith, [The California Coast](#), undated

Oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)

Courtesy of Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc., Newport Beach, California

# Introduction



On behalf of the United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies in Rome, Elaine and I welcome you to Villa San Sebastiano. When considering our selections for our ART in Embassies exhibition we chose art that best represents our beloved home state of California, Hispanic art, and our longstanding interest in the well being of the world's children.

California encompasses a vast territory of many landscapes. Jack Wilkinson Smith captures the splendor of *The California Coast* and the mountainous beauty of

the *Tehachapes near Mojave*. In *His Majesty*, Sam Hyde Harris portrays the rich colors of the countryside and the majestic presence of a large oak tree towering over the fertile soil of the Golden State. The talent of Harry Raymond Henry is seen in *Blossom Time, Mt. Langley, High Sierra*. The Sierra Nevada range has been a personal favorite since childhood and Mr. Henry accurately portrays the beauty and color of the magnificent mountain range. The beauty of the California desert is represented in *Sand Verbenas* by Paul Grimm. In my travels throughout the world I have visited many of the world's great and vast deserts. Each is special and unique and California's Mojave is no exception. The *San Juan Capistrano Mission* is one of the crown jewels of the California Missions and is world famous for the annual return of the swallows. Edward Timmons is masterful in his painting of our favorite mission. We extend our deep appreciation to our friend, Joan Irvine Smith who has generously lent the art that reflects the beauty of our home state and represents the fine work of extraordinary artists.

California is also a land of many peoples. As Hispanic Americans we take great pride in exhibiting two paintings that have been provided by fellow Californian Mr. Cheech Marin. Mr. Marin is not only an actor and entertainer but a well known art collector and we are grateful for the opportunity to share two of

his paintings with visitors to the residence. The painting of the woman in *Red Dress in Moonlight* by Margaret Garcia captures the depth and passion of the Latina woman, and the richness of colors and shades make the painting both unique and intriguing. The painting titled *Saturday* by Patsi Valdez blends rich colors with a serene backdrop and the tranquility of an early morning. The painting is perfectly suited for its location in the sunroom of the residence and offers guests an uplifting start to each and every day.

Emigdio Vasquez hails from my hometown, Orange, California. We grew up in the same neighborhood but eventually moved on to differing careers. Emigdio has become a well known muralist and artist specializing in paintings of Latino life in the barrios of southern California. His paintings of California in *Laguna Sunset* and *Sunset* are rich with shades of color and sunsets that make his work unique and inspiring. His self portrait at two years of age has become a visitor favorite as viewers admire the expression of a vulnerable young child. We thank Emigdio Vasquez and his family for the opportunity to share his talents and artistic gift with visitors to the residence.

Elaine and I hope you find the paintings reflective of our admiration for California, and pride in our Hispanic roots, as well as an abiding concern for children. As longtime child advocates we have been committed to protecting the little people who can't defend themselves and we will never cease to wage the war against child abuse and neglect. All children should be able to expect the kind of serenity seen in Emigdio's young self portrait.

We consider ourselves fortunate to be in Rome, and we are equally proud to share the art of many talented artists and friends. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

**Ambassador Gaddi H. Vasquez and Mrs. Elaine Vasquez**

Rome  
August 2007

# Margaret Garcia ✦ born 1951

Margaret Garcia was born in East Los Angeles, California, and grew up in Boyle Heights. Her grandmother, the eldest of the twenty-four children, was born in 1906, and remains one of the most important figures in her life:

"She exposed me to art and books, corrected my English and my Spanish and imbued me with a strong sense of self, a strong sense of pride. [These experiences have] made me realize how important my family is and what those relations mean... My work concerns itself with the individual. Individual moments that I share. The painting is a document of that moment I share with them. The most important thing is the moment. In this we share stories about ourselves and how we share our lives. The portrait becomes a record of that moment. It is so much harder to stereotype a people or a person whose face is presented before you and you are told or you read that that individual is a teacher, a filmmaker, an author. So as a whole the body of work I provide is a look at my community through the presence of the individual."

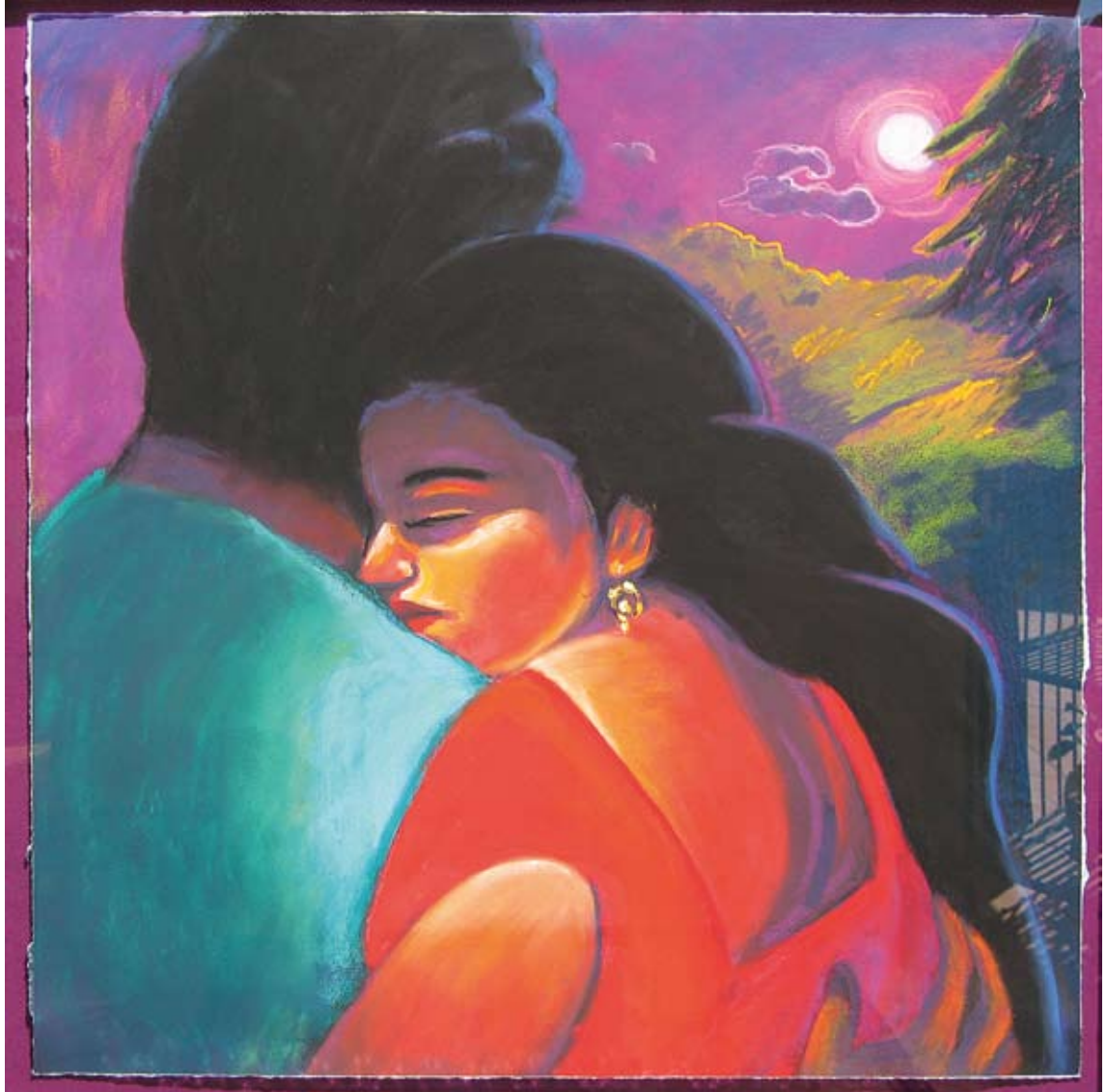
Garcia studied at California State University, Northridge, and Los Angeles City College, earning her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Southern California in 1992. Known for her outdoor public murals and her paintings, she has exhibited her work in group shows throughout southern California, as well as in Texas and Mexico. She also has taught and lectured extensively on art in different cultures.

<http://0101aztlan.net/artists/mgarcia.html>

<http://www.lamurals.org/MuralistPages/GarciaM.html>



# Margaret Garcia



**Red Dress in Moonlight**, 2004  
Pastel on paper, 38 ½ x 38 ½ in. (97,8 x 97,8 cm)  
Collection of Cheech Marin, Los Angeles, California

## Paul Grimm ✦ 1892-1974

Paul Grimm was born in South Africa in 1892. He moved to the United States with his family in 1899 and settled in Rochester, New York. At the age of eighteen, he won an art scholarship to study at the Royal Academy in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Grimm moved to California in 1919 and resided in Hollywood. There he supported himself by doing design and advertising work as well as painting backdrops for early Hollywood studios. He relocated to Palm Springs, California, in 1932, where he remained for the rest of his life until his death in 1974.

Grimm's early works are magnificent views of the California landscape, highlighted by dramatic, cloud-filled skies. After he settled in Palm Springs, he became the most renowned of the California desert painters. He won early popular fame, and his studio-gallery became a familiar stop for residents and tourists. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was one of his best known patrons.

# Paul Grimm



**Sand Verbenas**, undated  
Oil on amazonite, 20 x 24 in. (50,8 x 61 cm)  
Courtesy of Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc., Newport Beach, California

# Sam Hyde Harris ♦ 1889-1977

Sam Hyde Harris was born in Brentford, England, and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1904, settling in Los Angeles, California. While studying in the evenings at the Art Students League and at the Cannon Art School with F. Tolles Chamberlin, Stanton MacDonald-Wright, and Hanson Puthuff, Harris pursued a career as a commercial artist in advertising. In 1913 he spent six months in Europe, where he was inspired by the light and atmospheric effects in the works of the English masters John Constable and Joseph M.W. Turner.

Returning to Los Angeles, Harris continued in his successful commercial art career, designing advertisements and posters for the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, and Santa Fe railroads. All the while, on weekends, he continued to paint elegant, light-filled studies of farms and vistas in the San Gabriel Valley.

During the 1920s Harris studied privately with Puthuff, taking painting trips with him to the deserts of California and Arizona. He also liked to paint in the rural environs of Pasadena and San Gabriel as well as in the city of Los Angeles. During the 1930s he painted harbor scenes in San Pedro, Sunset Beach, and Newport Beach. After he retired, in the 1940s and 1950s, he often painted in the desert with James Swinnerton.

Harris was a member of the California Art Club, the Painters and Sculptors Club, and the Laguna Beach Art Association. He received a Silver Medal from the Painters and Sculptors Club in 1944 and a Special Award from the California Art Club in 1941.

Harris died in Alhambra, California, in 1977.



# Sam Hyde Harris



**His Majesty**, undated  
Oil on board, 16 x 20 in. (40,6 x 50,8 cm)  
Courtesy of Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc., Newport Beach, California

# Harry Raymond Henry ♦ 1882-1974

Harry Raymond Henry was born in Woodson, Illinois, in 1882. He apprenticed to an artist as a youth and later, studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, and the St. Louis Art Academy, Missouri. He maintained a studio in New York City until 1910, when he moved to California.

In the 1920s Henry kept a studio in an old adobe building in San Juan Capistrano before relocating to the Los Angeles area in 1929. In 1934 he was living in Hollywood and worked as an art critic for the *Hollywood Citizen News*.

By the mid 1940s he was living in Laguna Beach, where he produced a good part of his work. Henry died in Costa Mesa, California, in 1974.

Henry's style is characteristically fluid, with loose brush strokes and distinctive, vivid harmonies of colors, especially blues, pinks, and yellows.

# Harry Raymond Henry



**Blossom Time, Mt. Langley, High Sierra**, undated

Oil on canvas, 30  $\frac{3}{8}$  x 40  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (77,2 x 102,2 cm)

Courtesy of Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc., Newport Beach, California

# Jack Wilkinson Smith ✦ 1873-1949

Jack Wilkinson Smith was born in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1873. When just thirteen years old, he dropped out of high school, ran away to Chicago, and began his art career working as a paint boy at an advertising company. He later studied formally at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois.

Smith moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, to work as a sketch artist with the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, where he received national recognition for his front-line sketches of battle scenes of the Spanish-American War (1898). He studied with Frank Duveneck at the Cincinnati Art Academy and joined the Cincinnati Art Club, where he first gained exposure to serious American art.

In 1906 Smith visited California, which he called "nature's own paradise of scenic splendor and variety." He eventually established a studio-home in Alhambra, in an area known as Artists' Alley, and in 1923 he helped found Biltmore Salon, a gallery devoted to western artists. Smith was best known for his paintings of California's seascapes and mountain landscapes. He died in Monterey Park, California, in 1949.



# Jack Wilkinson Smith



*The California Coast*, undated  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)  
Courtesy of Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc., Newport Beach, California

# Jack Wilkinson Smith



*Tehachapes near Mojave*, undated  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)  
Courtesy of Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc., Newport Beach, California



## Edward Timmons ✦ 1882-1960

Edward Timmons was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1882. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, and then traveled to Europe, where he continued his studies in England, Holland, France, Italy, and in Spain with impressionist painter Joaquin Sorolla (1863-1923). Returning to the United States, he gained fame after settling into a studio in Chicago, Illinois. In 1915 Timmons exhibited at

the Panama-Pacific Exhibition in San Francisco. During the 1930s and 1940s he painted in the Monterey, California, area where he was active with the Carmel Art Association. He also painted with his brother-in-law, Arthur Hill Gilbert, on the Monterey Peninsula.

Timmons died in Evanston, Illinois, in 1960.



**San Juan Capistrano Mission**, undated  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)

Courtesy of Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc., Newport Beach, California

## Patssi Valdez ✦ born 1951

Patssi Valdez was born in Los Angeles, California. She holds an Associate of Arts degree from East Los Angeles College, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Otis/Parsons School of Art and Design, Los Angeles, and Parsons School of Design, New York City.

Valdez began her artistic career as a Garfield High School student in East Los Angeles, with her participation in the Chicano art movement of the 1970s and 1980s. Beyond murals and posters, she experimented with street performance, photographic montage, pageantry, and conceptual art, as well as set design work for films.

Ultimately, Valdez chose painting to express her most private experiences, with imagery still rich in ethnic symbols and myths, and an emotional immediacy reminiscent of magic realism. Recent interiors convey a more serene, self-reflective state of mind evidenced in her use of calming peach tones and deep hunter greens. Works such as *Saturday* reflect nature's regenerative, healing powers and evoke the peace Valdez achieved at a vacation house in Playas de Tijuana, Mexico. Windows are thrown open, recalling the indoor-outdoor spaces of French painter Henri Matisse. Ocean and sky stretch endlessly. The baroque, tilted perspective invites viewers directly into the painting. Yet in spite of the cheerful glow, the chairs remain empty.

In January 2001 *Patssi Valdez: A Precarious Comfort* opened at The Mexican Museum in San Francisco, California. In March, Valdez was one of only three Los Angeles artists awarded a \$25,000 Durfee Artist Fellowship based on past artistic achievement and future promise.

Cheech Marin, *Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge* (New York: Little, Brown and Company), p. 154

<http://artscenecal.com/ArticlesFile/Archive/Articles2000/Articles1200/PValdezA.html>

*Saturday*, 1997  
Watercolor, 36 x 32 in. (91,4 x 81,3 cm)  
Collection of Cheech Marin, Los Angeles, California





# Emigdio Vasquez ♦ born 1939

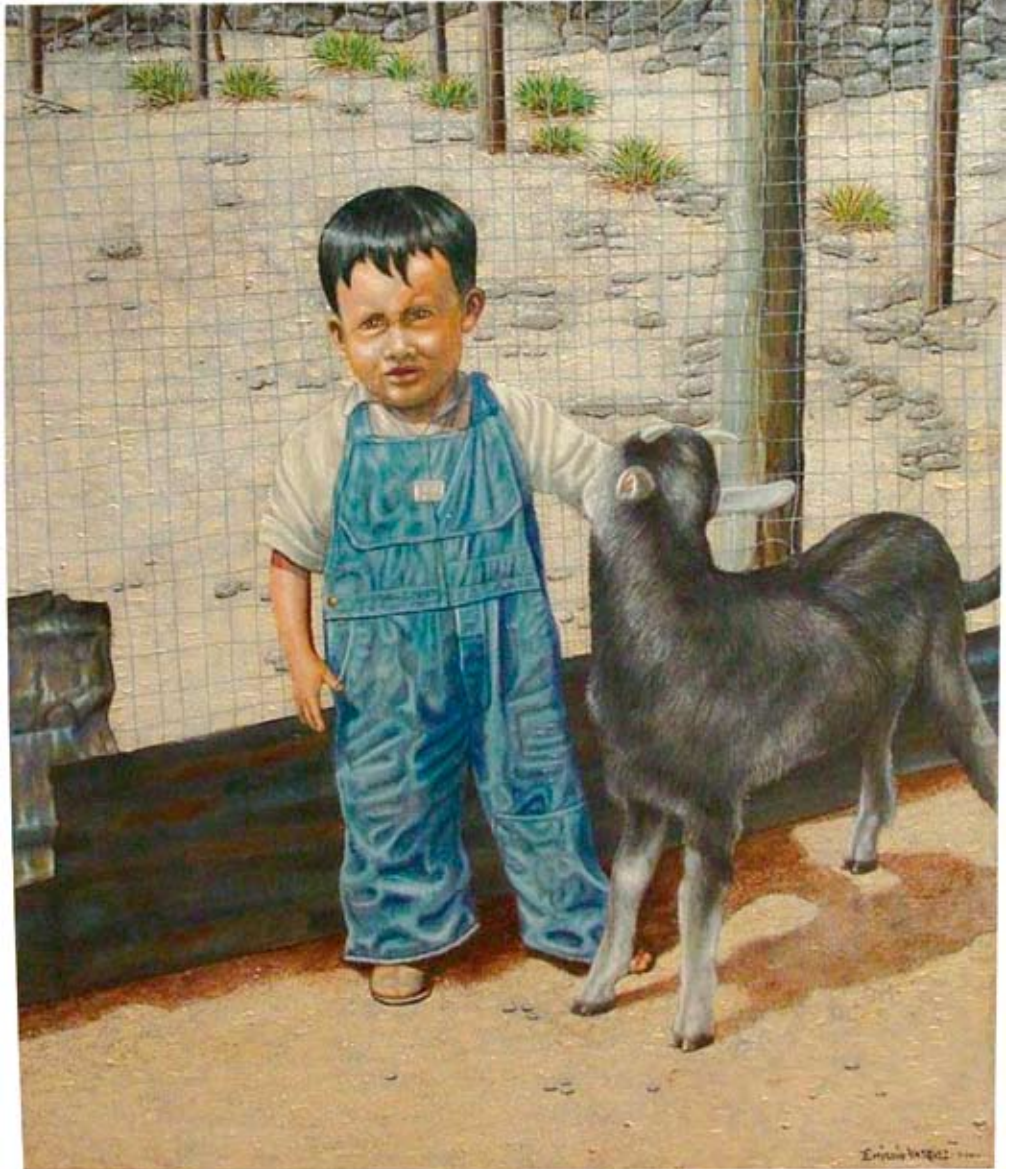
A pioneer in the Chicano art movement, Emigdio Vasquez was born in the historic town of Jerome, Arizona, and moved with his family to Orange, California, when he was two years old. The artistic style of his paintings and murals is rooted in contemporary realism, a technique he mastered to reflect the lives of the working class in the Chicano community: "The daily lives of people in the barrio are documented in my work. This environment holds inspiring visions of human warmth and cultural heritage. I do not view my subjects as a detached observer; I am personally involved with the people and scenes in my paintings. They are a part of my life experience."

Vasquez holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from California State University, Fullerton, and has taught in the art department at Rancho Santiago Community College. From 1985 to 1988 he managed a major public arts program for the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, the California Arts Council, and the City of Santa Ana, all in California. In 1966 he received an Artists Fellowship from the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation in New York City to support his continued documentation of the Chicano experience in Southern California.

Vasquez's works have been shown in many museums and private galleries, including the historic *Chicanarte* at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (1975) and *Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation* at the University of Southern California's Wight Gallery (1990), both in California. They are also held in numerous private and public collections. His many commissions include a mural for the Magic Kingdom, Disneyland, and for the Cesar Chavez Building at Santa Ana College, both in California.

<http://cemaweb.library.ucsb.edu/vasquez.html>

# Emigdio Vasquez



Emigdio Vasquez Age 2, 2002  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 20 in. (61 x 50,8 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Orange, California



# Emigdio Vasquez



Sunset, 1998

Oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Orange, California



# Emigdio Vasquez



**Laguna Sunset, 1988**  
Oil on canvas, 20 x 24 in. (50,8 x 61 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Orange, 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 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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