



**Art in Embassies Exhibition** United States Mission  
to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On the cover:

**Alex Nyerges**

**Windsor Farms Fog**, 2012

Black and white photograph

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

Courtesy of the artist and Glavé Kocen Gallery, Richmond, Virginia

## Art in Embassies

Established in 1963, the U.S. Department of State's office of Art in Embassies (AIE) plays a vital role in our nation's public diplomacy through a culturally expansive mission, creating temporary and permanent exhibitions, artist programming, and publications. The Museum of Modern Art first envisioned this global visual arts program a decade earlier. In the early 1960s, President John F. Kennedy formalized it, naming the program's first director. Now with over 200 venues, AIE curates temporary and permanent exhibitions for the representational spaces of all U.S. chanceries, consulates, and embassy residences worldwide, selecting and commissioning contemporary art from the U.S. and the host countries. These exhibitions provide international audiences with a sense of the quality, scope, and diversity of both countries' art and culture, establishing AIE's presence in more countries than any other U.S. foundation or arts organization.

AIE's exhibitions allow citizens, many of whom might never travel to the United States, to personally experience the depth and breadth of our artistic heritage and values, making what has been called a "footprint that can be left where people have no opportunity to see American art."

# Welcome

My wife, Roxane, and I are honored to welcome you to the OSCE Residence in Vienna to share in the wonderful art exhibition that the U.S. Department of State's Office of Art in Embassies helped us curate. For over fifty years, Art in Embassies has been an integral part of our nation's cultural diplomacy, providing important works of art to our missions abroad that spark conversation with our visitors and friends. Roxane and I have put together an exhibition that reflects our home state of Virginia, from the majesty of its landscapes to the inspiration of its people.

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The atmospheric black and white photographs of Alex Nyerges evoke both the bright and lively visions of our state and the gentle light and fog that inhabit it on an early spring morning. This same ambiance is also found in *In Old Virginia*, a pastoral scene that reflects the beauty of nature in a simple farm scene through Gari Melchers's fine, European-trained brush. Finally, the view of the Potomac River through the Blue Ridge Mountains found in *Harpers Ferry* shows the gorgeous geographic diversity in the state, and also hints at the second underlying theme of the exhibition: the people and events that have shaped our nation.

Our exhibition highlights some of the Virginians who had a role in forging our nation, as well as the events that gave rise to the United States. We've selected several representations of George Washington, from the general on horseback, showing him in uniform and reflecting his part in the fight for American independence, to a statesman at the Constitutional Convention, highlighting his role in overcoming the early problems of the Republic and forging the system of government that endures today.

Moses Jacob Ezekiel's bronze model for his rotunda statue of Thomas Jefferson is in our library, a fitting place to remember Jefferson as the third president of our nation, author of the Declaration of Independence, and founder of the University of Virginia.

Finally, the strength and resilience of the state from its founding at Jamestowne until today is reflected in Gari Melchers's *A Native of Virginia*, a portrait of a frontier woman who embodies the fortitude of all Virginians.

We are extremely grateful to the outstanding artists and Virginia museums that contributed to our Art in Embassies exhibition. We hope it sparks many discussions and strengthens our bonds both as individuals and representatives of our respective countries.

**James S. Gilmore III**

Ambassador to the United States Mission to the  
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

*Vienna, Austria  
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## Horace Thompson Carpenter (1857–1947)

Horace Thompson Carpenter was a descendant of Samuel Carpenter, a close associate of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. Educated at the Episcopal Academy of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (where he studied under Thomas Eakins), the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, and the Art Students League of New York, Carpenter had an early career in engineering, writing, and illustration.

*Born in 1774 in Virginia, Meriwether Lewis was asked by President Thomas Jefferson in 1801 to act as his private secretary. Jefferson soon made Lewis another offer—to lead an expedition into the unknown territory west of the Mississippi, which he did after enlisting William Clark. With the help of Sacagawea, the team successfully reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805. Their journey was famously known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.*



**Meriwether Lewis**

Oil on canvas

33 ½ x 29 ½ in. (85,1 x 74,9 cm)

Courtesy of the Virginia Museum of  
History & Culture, Richmond

## Moses Jacob Ezekiel (1844–1917)

Moses Jacob Ezekiel was one of the most celebrated sculptors of his day. His work appears in civic spaces, art museums, and universities across the world. Born in Richmond, Ezekiel was the first Jewish cadet to attend the Virginia Military Institute, and he fought at the Battle of New Market during the American Civil War. Afterward, Ezekiel relocated to Berlin, Germany, and won admittance to the royal academy; four years later, he became the first non-German to win the school's prestigious art competition. He spent the rest of his life in Europe, working out of a studio in Rome, Italy.

*Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the most influential Founding Fathers in the United States. Jefferson supported the separation of church and state and served as the wartime Governor of Virginia, the first United States Secretary of State, and the second Vice President. Although Jefferson owned enslaved people during his lifetime, he denounced the practice as immoral. Throughout his long career in public office, Jefferson worked to abolish or limit the advancement of slavery.*





**Thomas Jefferson, modeled 1897,**  
cast ca. 1900-1910  
Bronze with brown patina  
23  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 8  $\frac{3}{8}$  x 7  $\frac{3}{8}$  in.  
(60,3 x 21,3 x 18,7 cm)  
Courtesy of Virginia Museum of  
Fine Arts, Richmond; Floyd D. and  
Anne C. Gottwald Fund

## Gari Melchers (1860–1932)

The son of German-born American sculptor Julius Theodore Melchers, Gari Melchers was a native of Detroit, Michigan, who at seventeen studied art in Düsseldorf under von Gebhardt. After three years, he went to Paris, where he worked at the Académie Julian and the École des Beaux-Arts, where he studied under Lefebvre and Boulanger. Attracted by the pictorial side of Holland, he then settled in Egmond. In 1909, he became the Professor of Art at the Grand Ducal Saxony School of Art in Weimar, Germany. He returned to New York City in 1915 to open a studio at the Beaux-Arts building at Bryant Park. From 1920 to 1928, he served as the president of the New Society of Artists. He spent his final years at Belmont Estate in Falmouth, Virginia, near Fredericksburg.



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**A Native of Virginia**, c. 1925

Oil on canvas

81 ¼ x 59 ¾ in. (206,4 x 151,8 cm)

Courtesy of Gari Melchers Home and  
Studio, University of Mary Washington,  
Fredericksburg, Virginia

**In Old Virginia**, c. 1918

Oil on canvas

32 x 40 in. (81,3 x 101,6 cm)

Courtesy of Gari Melchers Home and  
Studio, University of Mary Washington,  
Fredericksburg, Virginia



## Alex Nyerges (born 1957)

Alex Nyerges is an award-winning international photographer, curator, author, and photo historian who has exhibited across the United States and Europe. His work is in collections in New York; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Richmond; Budapest; and elsewhere.

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A native of Rochester, New York—the home of Eastman Kodak Company founder George Eastman—Nyerges grew up with a family tradition in photography and music, visiting art galleries with his parents. He has created photographs in 35mm, medium, and large formats for more than forty years.

Seeking the elements of beauty that surround us, so often unseen and neglected in the built and natural worlds, his work uses sunlight and shadows to create photographs that are both modern and timeless. Since 2006, Nyerges has served as director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.



**Windsor Farms Fog, 2012**

Black and white photograph, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist and Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, Virginia



**James River Fog III, 2013**

Black and white photograph

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

Courtesy of the artist and Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, Virginia

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(left) **Williamsburg Spring, 2019**

Black and white photograph

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

Courtesy of the artist and Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, Virginia

(right) **Williamsburg II, 2018**

Black and white photograph

30 x 24 in. (76.2 x 61 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, Virginia



## Junius Brutus Stearns (1810–1885)

American painter Junius Brutus Stearns is most well-known for a five-part series of paintings based on the life of George Washington, including this one featuring Washington addressing the Constitutional Convention. Stearns was elected an associate member of the National Academy of Design in 1840, elevated to full membership the next year, and served as the group's secretary from 1851–1846. He was killed in a carriage accident near his home in 1885. His work is part of the collections of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; the Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio; and the New York Historical Society.

*The Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia between May and September of 1787 to address the problems of the central government that existed under the Articles of Confederation. The Constitution that emerged from the convention established a federal government with more specific powers, including those related to conducting relations with foreign governments.*

**Washington as Statesman at the Constitutional Convention, 1856**

Oil on canvas, 46 x 63 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. (116,8 x 160,5 cm)

Courtesy of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch





## James Walker (1819–1889)

James Walker, an illustrator and a painter of military battles, was born in England. As a child, he immigrated with his family to the United States and settled on the Hudson River at Albany, New York. Little is known about Walker's art training; critics suggest he studied painting in New York City. After the Civil War, he established studios in New York and Washington, D.C., where he became well known as a painter of famous American battle scenes. He completed several government-commissioned works, one of which was placed in the Senate. In the late 1860s or early 1870s, he settled into a studio in San Francisco, California. In this painting, George Washington is shown in his general's uniform, represented by gold braids on his jacket.



**George Washington  
on Horseback**, 19th century  
Oil on canvas, 17 x 15 in. (43,2 x 38,1 cm)  
Courtesy of The Virginia Museum of  
History & Culture, Richmond

## Artist Unknown

This unknown artist belongs to a group later called 'After Gilbert Stuart,' referring to artists who based their paintings after the original painting of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, one of eighteenth-century America's master portrait artists. Stuart is best known for his unfinished Athenaeum portrait of George Washington that is seen on the U.S. one-dollar bill.

*George Washington led America's Continental Army to victory over Britain in the American Revolutionary War and was later elected the first President of the United States under the U.S. Constitution. He served two four-year terms from 1789 to 1797, winning reelection in 1792. Because of his central and critical role in the founding of the United States, Washington is referred to as the father of the nation.*



**George Washington**, 18th century  
Oil on canvas, 40 x 35 in. (101,6 x 88,9 cm)  
Courtesy of Virginia Museum of Fine  
Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C.  
Williams Collection

## Artist Unknown

“The passage of the Patowmac through the Blue Ridge is perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature,” Thomas Jefferson wrote of the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers in 1783. “This scene is worth a voyage across the Atlantic.”

Harpers Ferry, a historic town in West Virginia, was the scene of many battles during the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865. Harpers Ferry is best known for John Brown's raid in 1859, in which he attempted to use the town and the weapons in its Federal Armory (munitions plant) as the base for a slave revolt. It is situated at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, where the U.S. states of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia meet.

**Harpers Ferry**, c. 1830s

Oil on canvas, 42  $\frac{3}{8}$  x 58  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (107,6 x 148 cm)

Courtesy of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond

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