



ART IN EMBASSIES EXHIBITION
UNITED STATES EMBASSY KOLONIA

Cover:

Carlos Dávila Rinaldi **Old City**, 2015

Acrylic and tar gel on canvas, 30 x 24 in. (76,2 x 61 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Galería Petrus, San Juan, Puerto Rico

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."

<https://art.state.gov/>

Welcome

Art makes people optimistic about their future. It influences humanity by shaping points of view, instilling values, and deciphering experiences. Artworks are often considered the receptacle of a civilization's shared pool of memories and knowledge, and they can help disseminate notes of inspiration, making people aspire to and accomplish remarkable things. Art can be a mode of communication amongst people, focusing on mutual topics in furtherance of humanity.

For the Art in Embassies exhibition for my Residence in Kolonia, I selected American art that reverberated diversity, vivacity, dynamism, and inspiration. Carlos Dávila Rinaldi's and Anne-Marie Esson's artworks are excellent examples of vivaciousness, vitality, and energy.

Dávila Rinaldi painted *Old City* from memory. Using blue acrylic and charcoal, the artist captures the essence of the iconic Spanish architecture of Old San Juan in all its splendor, featuring sunbathed walls, balconies, and doorways. *Diving Boards* evokes the memory of Dávila Rinaldi's youth in his native Puerto Rico, depicting old pool sides with diving boards and sunbathers with cocktails in the Dorado Resort area.

Anne-Marie Esson is a painter, instructor, and host of the public television series *Painting with Anne-Marie*. Her step-by-step method makes painting seem less daunting. To transform a blank canvas, Esson begins with sketches of the subject, followed by a color wash, and then layers shadow to add depth. She completes the canvas with painted accents and highlights to bring the image to life. Working predominately in oil, her application of color, rhythm, and form is expressive and tactile. Each of her works has its own essence, story, and interpretation.

I am very grateful to these wonderful artists who contributed to the Art in Embassies program and Curator Tiffany Williams. I am excited to showcase the beautiful pieces at the Chief of Mission's Residence in Kolonia, the Federated States of Micronesia.

Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor

Kolonia, the Federated States of Micronesia
January 2021

Carlos Dávila Rinaldi (1958-)

Carlos Dávila Rinaldi's artworks vacillate between abstraction and figuration, with subject matter incorporating popular culture and social commentary on his native Puerto Rico. His compositions express politically charged messages through powerful brushstrokes and rich, vibrant colors. "My abstract work stems from earlier figurative paintings...which over the years evolved into visual handwriting creating extremely busy canvases full of color and strong graphic mark[s]... I am a serious believer that the artist is in constant interaction and reaction with his environment. I paint about the experience," he said.

After attending the Art Students League in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Dávila Rinaldi moved to New York and enrolled in the Great Lakes College Association Artist Apprenticeship Program in 1979, with postmodern artists Robert Stackhouse and Louis Lieberman. In 1980, Dávila Rinaldi graduated from DePauw University in Indiana, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. His works have been shown in public and private collections, namely the Ponce Museum and Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, both in Santurce. Dávila Rinaldi has participated in international art fairs such as SCOPE and PhotoMiami.

Cover:

Old City, 2015

Acrylic and tar gel on canvas, 30 x 24 in. (76,2 x 61 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Galería Petrus, San Juan, Puerto Rico



Lago, 2011
Acrylic and tar gel on canvas, 20 x 16 in. (50,8 x 40,6 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Galería Petrus, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Carlos Dávila Rinaldi



Diving Board, 2015

Acrylic and tar gel on canvas, 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Galería Petrus, San Juan, Puerto Rico



Retro First Class, undated
Oil on canvas, 36 x 36 in. (91,4 x 91,4 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Galería Petrus, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Carlos Dávila Rinaldi



Big League Knuckler, undated

Oil on canvas, 36 x 36 in. (91,4 x 91,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Galería Petrus, San Juan, Puerto Rico



Ill Repute, undated
Oil on canvas, 36 x 36 in. (91,4 x 91,4 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and Galería Petrus, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Anne-Marie Esson (1970-)

Although she specializes in textiles, mosaics, and metal and clay sculpture, Anne-Marie Esson is best known for her lively and innovative paintings. Working predominately in oil, her application of color, rhythm, and composition expresses tactility and joy. "A runaway of sorts drives the color and staccato of brushwork and space relationships within each painting or sculpture," the artist said. "Each work is its own story, or interpretation within the space." The quintessential landscape scenes and panoramic ocean views of the Chesapeake Bay area serve as points of inspiration for Esson, and her artworks exude calmness.

Esson earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Sam Fox School of Art and Design at Washington University in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. She also has an Associate of Applied Arts degree in architecture and interior design from Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Maryland. Her work has been featured in public and private collections throughout Maryland; Washington, D.C.; and New York. The Annapolis-based artist currently owns a specialty art and design company, ArtDesigns Inc.



Joyous, 2015

Oil on canvas, 8 ½ x 11 in. (21,6 x 27,9 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Annapolis, Maryland



Thinker, 2016

Oil on canvas, 8 x 10 in. (20,3 x 25,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Annapolis, Maryland



Julian Jackson (1953–)

Julian Jackson consistently explores geometric motifs in his oeuvre. He equips his chamfered-edged wood panels with a hanging apparatus to give them the impression of floating midair. After smoothing the wood's surface, he covers each panel with thin oil glazes to diminish the paint's substance. Jackson's artistic style aligns with abstract expressionism: the ranges of color represent changing moods, and the soft compositions transport the viewer to an ethereal world. According to Jackson, the main themes of his work are light, color, and layered space: "My paintings with their complex and shifting compositions and elusive light are intended to guide the viewer to an otherworldly place of formal uncertainty, which... shimmers before us and beguiles us forward to an unexpected place."

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Jackson took courses at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Since 1995, Jackson has exhibited extensively in museums and galleries across the United States, Italy, Japan, Turkey, and Germany, where he served twice as visiting artist at the Oberfalzer Künstlerhaus. His works are featured in public collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the United States Embassy, Mongolia; the Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.; and the City of Salzburg, Austria. A member of the American Abstract Artists, Jackson lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

April Study 7, 2012

Archival inkjet print, 17 ¼ x 14 ¼ in. (43,8 x 36,2 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.;

Gift of the American Abstract Artists, New York City



Robert Motherwell (1915–1991)

One of the original abstract expressionist painters to embrace printmaking, Robert Motherwell produced approximately 200 limited edition prints of his artworks over thirty years. A successor to surrealism, in abstract expressionism, the act of the painting becomes the content of the artwork through gestural movements and fields of flat, solid color across a picture plane.

Motherwell received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Stanford University in California, and studied at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was not until his 1938 excursion to Europe that Motherwell discovered his artistic passion, holding his first solo exhibition at the Raymond Duncan Gallery in Paris. After moving to Greenwich Village in New York, he met artist William Baziotès, who introduced him to many abstract expressionists such as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning. For the remainder of his art career, Motherwell lectured, traveled extensively, and developed his style of painting and drawing. In 1944, he exhibited his first collages at Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century gallery in New York. He also showcased his works in solo and group exhibitions at institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Royal Academy of the Arts, London; and the Paris Museum of Modern Art.

Capriccio, 1961

Collotype and photo silkscreen, 30 ¾ x 25 ½ in. (78,1 x 64,8 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.;

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Berman



J. Bertram White (1975–)

"The thing I like about painting is that it captures life...that one moment, that one remarkable story. I am mesmerized by the textures, light patterns, colors, and voices of the land and sky. I love both the dramatic and bold changes in life, as well as the sheer undeniable strength of the weather and seasons and from that how light manipulates the contrasting values, hues, and tones of its recipient. As an artist, I seek new ways to share my vision," said J. Bertram White. He started his artistic career in his early twenties with a passion for architecture and photography. White utilizes watercolors, pastels on paper, and mixed media to create bold, abstract works, or what he classifies as "a different look at reality."

White attended Morgan University in Baltimore and graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in design and advertising. Since 2001, he has owned Bertland Fine Arts and Paintings Gallery in Maryland. His work has been widely exhibited, including distinct recognition in the juried show *Speaking Life Exhibit* with Open Spaces.

Untitled, 2010

Watercolor, 22 ½ x 18 ½ in. (57,2 x 47 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of the artist

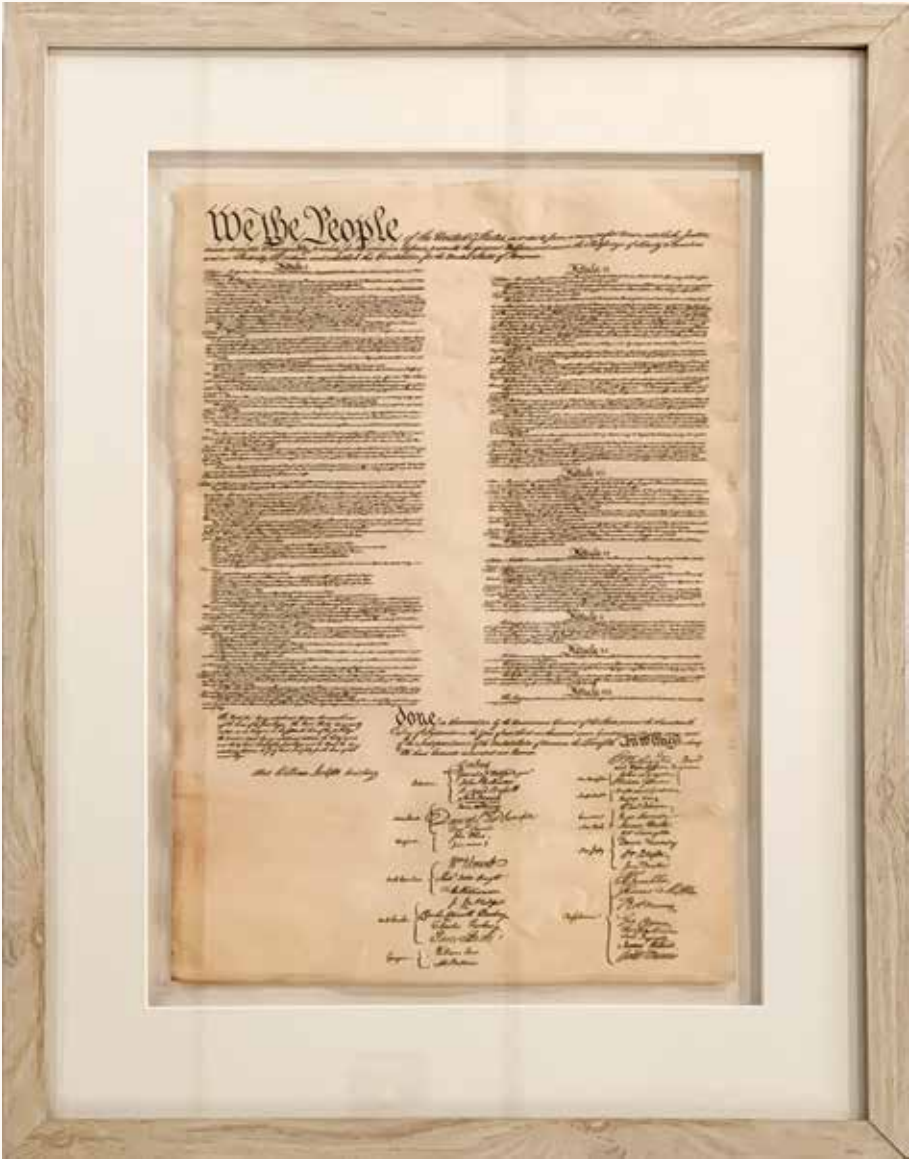


Artist Unknown

The Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America. It was adopted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and later ratified by the states. It is the oldest written constitution for an independent state in effect in the world.

The U.S. Constitution is comprised of a preamble, seven original articles, and twenty-seven amendments. The first ten of those amendments are called the Bill of Rights. The chief articles address issues dealing with limits to the power of the central government, Congressional representation, and how representatives should be elected. The First Amendment addresses freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of petition, and freedom of religion. Noted signatories include George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton.

The Constitution of the United States, 1787, *undated*
Reproduction on parchment, 23 ½ x 17 in. (59,7 x 43,2 cm)
Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.



Acknowledgments

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