



U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium **ART IN EMBASSIES EXHIBITION**

ANN LOVELESS *The Lakeshore, 2022*

Textile, Triptych: **48 x 84 in. (121,9 x 213,4 cm)**, Each panel 48 x 28 in. (121,9 x 71,1 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Frankfort, Michigan

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

Over the years, I have found that when my European friends and colleagues think of the beauty of the United States, images of our national parks or coastal cities such as San Francisco, Miami, or Boston often leap to mind. Seldom do they think of the American Midwest, despite its unique geography and diverse landscapes. In an effort to showcase the natural beauty of my home state, I have selected works featuring Michigan images by Michigan artists. From the vast sand dunes around the edges of the Great Lakes to the rolling farm fields and thick forests of pine, birch, and maple trees, Michigan is a cornucopia of natural wonders best enjoyed on foot, on a bike, or in a boat. Growing up in the Detroit suburbs, I spent most of my summers “up north” in the northwestern corner of the state and have enjoyed introducing my two boys to my favorite corners during their childhoods.

As I considered various Michigan artists to feature at Truman Hall, I sought opportunities to promote mixed mediums. For example, quilting is an important Midwestern tradition, with family quilts capturing special moments over generations. I chose Ann Loveless’s quilt entitled *The Lakeshore* to represent this rich tradition and intricate art form. The fact that her award-winning quilts feature Michigan landscapes made it an ideal fit for this exhibition.

Two large photographs—*Holland Tulips* and *Parrot Tulips*—from Michigan-based photographer Laurie Tennent also make up part of the exhibition. These botanical images amplify delicate living structures on a massive scale so we can appreciate their simple beauty. In them, Tennent, inspired by historical botanical drawings and Dutch paintings, reminds us of the Dutch immi-

grants who settled in Michigan and brought with them the tradition of spring tulip festivals, which you can still enjoy in places like Holland, Michigan.

Most of the acrylic, oil, and pastel paintings selected, including Philip Joseph's *Through the Trees*, Kathleen Kalinowski's *Northern Inlet*, and David Westerfield's *Grass Falls*, focus on the centrality of water to Michigan's natural landscapes. At over 5,000 kilometers of coastline, equivalent to 3,107 miles, Michigan has the longest shoreline of any U.S. state, and the Great Lakes are an important part of the state's identity and culture.

Finally, *November Skies over D.H. Day Farm* by Carolyn Damstra depicts Michigan's more rural beauty—the history of the farming communities that helped the Midwest earn its nickname of “America's breadbasket.”

I hope, together, these seven pieces help you understand why Michigan is such a special place to me.

I am grateful to Art in Embassies and talented artists Carolyn Damstra, Philip Joseph, Kathleen Kalinowski, Ann Loveless, Laurie Tennent, and David Westerfield for helping me showcase the beauty of Michigan to our NATO Allies and partners. I hope this exhibition inspires you to embrace your natural surroundings and perhaps add Michigan to your travel wish list.

Julianne Smith

Ambassador to the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

*Brussels, Belgium
August 2022*

CAROLYN DAMSTRA (born 1967)

Michigan-based acrylic and watercolor painter Carolyn Damstra travels around her home state to paint majestic dunes, uncultivated fields, and historic barns. In each work, “Damstra seeks out the healing power of immersion in nature and finds an emotional connection to our environment through visual observation. Her paintings serve as a bridge, or a catalyst, for connecting with the natural world and finding peace and spiritual health.”¹ *November Skies Over D.H. Day Farm* shows one of the many preserved heritage farms on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Although stormy skies loom above, Damstra’s “patterned brushstrokes and harmonizing, earthy colors lend a calmness to the scene.”²

Damstra received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio art and a Master of Fine Arts degree in art history from Michigan State University, East Lansing. A member of the Lansing Plein Air Painters, she was selected as an artist in residence at Indiana Dunes National Park. Her paintings have been exhibited at the Denos Museum Center, Traverse City, Michigan, and the Ludington Area Center for the Arts, Michigan.



*Figure 1: November Skies
Over D.H. Day Farm, 2022*

Acrylic on stretched canvas

16 x 20 in. (40,6 x 50,8 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Okemos, Michigan

PHILIP JOSEPH (born 1942)

Philip Joseph creates landscape and abstract paintings that showcase the natural beauty of Northwest Michigan. In making his landscapes, he references photographs taken from various sites. *Through the Trees* represents a spot located close to his studio: “The blue of the water, the dense texture of the grass, and the viewing framework of the trees between contain just the right balance of elements. It is at once a painting simple in structure and rich in color and texture.”³

Joseph earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Manchester University, North Manchester, Indiana, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting at Michigan State University, East Lansing. After teaching art for twenty-eight years at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, he returned to Michigan, where he currently operates a studio near Lake Michigan and Portage Lake.



*Figure 2: **Through the Trees**, 2021*
Acrylic on canvas, 28 x 28 in. (71,1 x 71,1 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Onekama, Michigan;
Image courtesy of Chris Wucherer

KATHLEEN KALINOWSKI (born 1958)

Kathleen Kalinowski's oil and pastel paintings "explore the nuances of nature with layers of color in a contemporary, impressionist style."⁴ Her artistic process involves composing a sketch or drawing, determining the subject of her composition, and loosely painting large shapes for two to three hours, "working dark values to light and leaving any details until the end."⁵ Rendered in vibrant pastel, *Northern Inlet* captures a section of shoreline along the Upper Peninsula's Highway 2 where there are small inland ponds surrounded by pines and a glimpse of Lake Michigan beyond. Although the state is famous for its many large lakes and grand vistas, Kalinowski is also inspired by "the intimate spaces of nature that reflect the wonders of Michigan."⁶

Kalinowski studied illustration at Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graphic design at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan. An associate member of the Pastel Society of America, she participated in the Land Conservancy of West Michigan's Preserved, partnering with thirteen local artists to paint *en plein air*, or outdoor, works on Land Conservancy protected areas.⁷ Exhibitions include the Kalamazoo Institute of Art, Michigan; the Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City, Michigan; and the Lowell Arts Council, Michigan.



Figure 3: Northern Inlet, 2012. Pastel on archival paper, 12 x 24 in. (30,5 x 61 cm). Courtesy of the artist, Comstock Park, Michigan

ANN LOVELESS (born 1960)

Quilt artist Ann Loveless's textile work *The Lakeshore* depicts a peaceful landscape and the seasonal changes of Michigan. "Working from a photograph, Loveless created her piece by cutting, fusing, and layering fibers for a realistic representation. She incorporates printed cotton and batik fabrics for bold and intense color in the sunset and lake. Linen, yarn, various fibers, and thread are machine stitched in the dunes for added detail and texture. A photo-printed birch tree anchors the third panel."⁸

Loveless earned a clothing and textile degree from Michigan State University, East Lansing. She has been featured in publications such as *Quiltfolk* magazine and *Quilting Arts*. Her works have been shown in numerous regional and national exhibitions, including the Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City, Michigan; the International Quilt Festival, Houston; and the Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, Frankfort, Michigan.



Figure 4: **The Lakeshore**, 2022. Textile, Triptych: 48 x 84 in. (121,9 x 213,4 cm), Each panel 48 x 28 in. (121,9 x 71,1 cm). Courtesy of the artist, Frankfort, Michigan

LAURIE TENNENT (born 1961)

Laurie Tennent captures detailed botanical images with her camera that push beyond traditional photography. Tennent collaborates with conservationists and botanists to collect rare specimens and promote awareness for endangered species of flora.⁹ *Holland Tulips* and *Parrot Tulips* feature colorful subjects illuminated against a rich dark background for a classical, dramatic effect. “Isolating [these] delicate living structures and amplifying them on a massive scale transports the viewer to a serene space where one is encouraged to breathe and to reconnect with the intricate beauty of nature.”¹⁰

Tennent earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the College for Creative Studies, Detroit, where she experimented with photography and plant life. While running her gallery, Laurie Tennent Botanicals, she teaches photography at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, Michigan. Tennent’s work is part of many public and private collections, including the Detroit Institute of Arts; the Mira Godard Study Centre at Ryerson University, Toronto; and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris.

Figure 5: *Parrot Tulips*, 2008
Polychrome on aluminum, 50 x 36 in. (127 x 91,4 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Birmingham, Michigan





*Figure 6: **Holland Tulips**, 2021*

Polychrome on aluminum, 35 x 60 in. (88,9 x 152,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Birmingham, Michigan

DAVID WESTERFIELD (born 1956)

David Westerfield specializes in oil painting and drawing, typically painting *en plein air*, or outdoors on site, then bringing his canvas back to his studio for further detailed work.¹¹ “Art is my response to and appreciation for what I see around me. I am interested in capturing the shapes, colors, and contrasts of sunlight and shadow, water and shore, earth and sky,” he says.¹²

Westerfield received a Bachelor of Arts degree in drawing and painting at North Park University, Chicago. Additionally, he studied at the American Academy of Art, Chicago, and the Sedona Art Center, Arizona. After a thirty-year career working in graphic design and illustration for publications like the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *Covenant Companion*, Westerfield switched to painting full time frequently traveling to Michigan, California, and Hawaii.¹³



*Figure 7: **Grass Falls**, 2018. Oil on canvas, 30 x 48 in. (76,2 x 121,9 cm) Courtesy of the artist, Allendale, Michigan*

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Carolyn Damstra, email to the author, January 8, 2022.
- ² Carolyn Damstra.
- ³ Philip Joseph, email to the author, April 18, 2022.
- ⁴ Kathleen Kalinowski, email to the author, January 7, 2022.
- ⁵ Kathleen Kalinowski.
- ⁶ Kathleen Kalinowski, email to the author, May 27, 2022.
- ⁷ Kathleen Kalinowski, email to the author, January 7, 2022.
- ⁸ Ann Loveless, email to the author, March 8, 2022.
- ⁹ Laurie Tennent, email to the author, April 25, 2022.
- ¹⁰ Laurie Tennent.
- ¹¹ “Center Gallery hosts graphic artist David Westerfield,” *Glen Arbor Sun*, accessed April 28, 2022, <https://glenarborsun.com/center-gallery-hosts-graphic-artist-david-westerfield/>.
- ¹² “Center Gallery hosts graphic artist David Westerfield.”
- ¹³ David Westerfield, email to the author, January 13, 2022.

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