

ART IN EMBASSIES EXHIBITION
United States Embassy to the Holy See



JESSICA GOKEY A Dance with Florals, 2022

Czech seed beads with brass sequin accent on black wool trade cloth, 17 x 12 ½ in. (43,2 x 31,8 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

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

My wife Jill and I very much enjoyed the opportunity to select works of art through Art in Embassies. As Ambassador to the Holy See, I live in an open-air museum: Rome. Everywhere I turn, I am surrounded by the depth and richness of Italy's immense artistic tradition. This made the selection process for works of art in Villa Richardson no small task! We chose works created by talented American artists inspired by our country's vast natural beauty, as well as those that represent the United States' diversity of experiences. As individual pieces, they span different generations and mediums: when seen together, these wonderful pieces of art truly represent America.

Douglas David's *Weather's on its Way* captures the natural beauty of our home state of Indiana and the drama of its intense summer weather. While Jessica Gokey's *A Dance with Florals* is a testament to the rich beadwork tradition of the Ojibwe people of the Midwest and Northern Plains: this "dance" brings together the importance of tradition, community, and family. Just as David Allen's *Michigan Street Bridge* is a work of masterful realism and deep personal resonance. And finally, Suzanna Marshall's quilt *Journey Through Time* displays unparalleled craftsmanship and storytelling.

These works all represent a connection to nature and tell stories that are both universal and personal. Jill and I are so grateful for the talent and generosity of artists and lenders through Art in Embassies. We hope to host you soon at Villa Richardson, where our guests can see for themselves the beauty, richness, and diversity of American artistic expression. Truly, these works offer a little glimpse into the soul of our country.

Ambassador Joseph Donnelly and Mrs. Jill Donnelly

*Vatican City, Rome, Italy
November 2022*

David Allen (born 1950)

Self-taught artist David Allen paints localized scenes with trees, streets, houses, and factories from his hometown of South Bend, Indiana. Painting on location rather than from photographs, Allen portrays the beauty in everyday life, stating, “the role of the artist is to be nurtured by the moment, our immediate reality.”¹ *Michigan Street Bridge* initially began as the “left half of what are now two halves comprising the oil painting.”² Adding the right half transformed the work into a stronger, panoramic composition.³

Allen has been painting since the age of sixteen and credits his knowledge of art to long-time friend and mentor Harold Zisla, an American abstract expressionist painter and director of the South Bend Museum of Art and professor emeritus at Indiana University, South Bend.⁴ Allen’s paintings are housed in the permanent collections of the South Bend Museum of Art and the Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, Indiana.

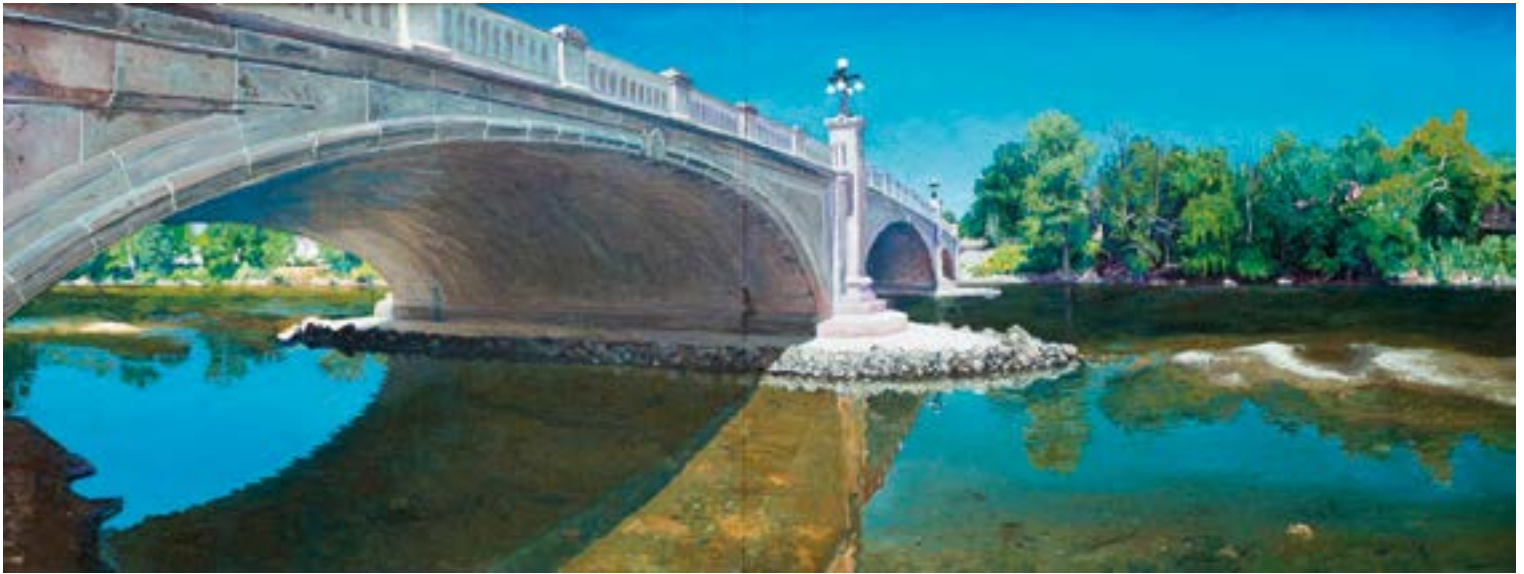


Figure 1: **Michigan Street Bridge**, 2014
Oil on canvas, 30 x 80 in. (76,2 x 203,2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, South Bend, Indiana

Douglas David (born 1957)

For over twenty years, Douglas David has painted “the beauty and spirit of the things he loves—tranquil country landscapes, sunrises and sunsets on his favorite beaches, a simple pitcher of spring lilacs or peonies, a slice of watermelon on a checkered tablecloth.”⁵ Under the tutelage of artist Frank Mason, who taught him the palette of twentieth-century American impressionist Frank Vincent DuMond, David paints multihued works that evoke warmth, simplicity, and timelessness.⁶

David earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in visual communications at Indiana University’s Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis and later taught there and at the Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida, and the Glen Arbor Arts Center, Michigan. He is a member of the Salmagundi Club, New York, and the Southern Vermont Arts Center, Manchester, and his work has been exhibited at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art and the Richmond Art Museum, both in Indiana.



Figure 2: **Peonies**, 2019
Oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (61 x 76,2 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Indianapolis, Indiana



Figure 3: **Weather's on its Way**, 2017
Oil on canvas, 30 x 48 in. (76,2 x 121,9 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Indianapolis, Indiana



Figure 4: **Indiana Dunes**, 2018
Oil on canvas, 36 x 60 in. (91,4 x 152,4 cm)
Courtesy of the artist, Indianapolis, Indiana

Jessica Gokey (born 1985)

For artist Jessica Gokey, beadwork is more than just a hobby; it is a cultivated practice inspired by nature that celebrates her Ojibwe heritage. Her process begins with substantial research and transitions to sketching and drawing her subject on a pad and sketch-and-tear paper. She then layers the wool or felt base with a stabilizing material to hold it in place while beading and composing her subject.⁷ *A Dance with Florals* represents the flora from traditional Ojibwe patterns: Most are edible and figure prominently in the foods and herbal preparations of Indigenous peoples. Gokey, a master Ojibwe bead artist, highlights the transcendent beauty of her ancestral lands and showcases clover flowers, crabapple blossom, fiddleheads, squash blossoms, waterlilies, cranberry, strawberry flowers, and junipers.⁸

Gokey, who is from the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe near Hayward, Wisconsin, is committed to preserving traditional Native American beadwork. After a six-month fellowship at the Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, she began teaching classes and workshops to help ensure the art form's legacy. Her work is represented in many public and private collections, including the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Institute of Art, Minneapolis.



Figure 5: **A Dance with Florals**, 2022

Czech seed beads with brass sequin accent on black wool trade cloth, 17 x 12 ½ in. (43,2 x 31,8 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

Suzanne Marshall (born 1939)

Suzanne Marshall is a self-taught Midwestern quilter who commonly features nature, folk art, and images from ancient history in her quilts. Inspired by seventeenth-century embroidery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,⁹ *Journey Through Time* was appliqued, embroidered, and quilted by hand using over 144 different fabrics.¹⁰ Although she copied bird and floral motifs from the museum's embroidery, Marshall utilized her artistic license to add a ladybug, frog, and snail.¹¹

Since the late 1970s, Marshall has hand-quilted her works without a frame or hoop. She has received numerous awards and accolades, including being named as one of 'Thirty Distinguished Quilt Artists of the World' at the Tokyo International Great Quilt Festival, Japan.¹² Her quilts have been exhibited widely, including at the National Quilt Museum, Paducah, Kentucky; the Field House Museum, St. Louis, Missouri; and Wickrath Castle, Mönchengladbach, Germany.



Figure 6: **Journey Through Time**, c. 1991. Quilt, 68 x 68 in. (172,7 x 172,7 cm). Courtesy of the artist, Clayton, Missouri

Endnotes

- ¹ David Allen, email to the author, May 1, 2022.
- ² David Allen.
- ³ David Allen.
- ⁴ "About the Artist," David Allen — Painter, accessed May 31, 2022, <https://davidallpainter.com/contact>.
- ⁵ Douglas David, email to the author, May 12, 2022.
- ⁶ Douglas David.
- ⁷ Natalie Ryder. "Master Ojibwe Bead Artist Jessica Gokey Reveres Beadwork as Fine Art," Midwest Home, June 15, 2021, <https://midwesthome.com/people-1/master-ojibwe-bead-artist-jessica-gokey-reveres-beadwork-as-fine-art/>.
- ⁸ Jessica Gokey, email to the author, May 17, 2022.
- ⁹ Suzanne Marshall, email to the author, May 26, 2022.
- ¹⁰ Suzanne Marshall, email to the author, April 30, 2022.
- ¹¹ Suzanne Marshall, email to the author, May 26, 2022.
- ¹² About Suzanne, Suzanne Marshall, accessed May 24, 2022, <https://www.suzannequilts.com/About>.

Acknowledgments

Washington, D.C.

Camille Benton, Curator
Morgan Fox, Curatorial Assistant
Danielle Giampietro, Registrar
Tabitha Brackens, Editor
Tori See, Editor
Megan Pannone, Editor
Amanda Brooks, Imaging Manager

Vienna

Nathalie Mayer, Graphic Designer

Manila

Global Publishing Solutions, Printing



Art in Embassies

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Published by Art in Embassies | U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. | November 2022

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