



## **Art in Embassies**

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

# **Art in Embassies Exhibition: United States Consulate General in Hong Kong & Macau**

## **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.”

[www.art.state.gov](http://www.art.state.gov)

## Welcome

Throughout my nearly twenty-five years in the Foreign Service, I have always admired the art at the U.S. Ambassador and Consul General Residences around the world. The works featured in the halls of those buildings are created by American artists and are on loan from museums, dealers, collectors, and often the artists themselves.

Each Mission head, with the help of the State Department's Office of Art in Embassies, is responsible for selecting art that reflects their own experiences and views of the world, as well as the culture and natural landscape in the country or region where they are privileged to serve.

Selecting the works of art that you see throughout the Residence was not a simple task; there were so many beautiful and meaningful pieces to choose from. Ultimately, my wife Margaret and I picked the works we enjoyed and reminded us of the diverse landscapes, cultures, and people in Hong Kong and Macau.

The work that is featured on the cover of this catalog, *Flora*, by Gregory Dirr, depicts a lush and vivid jungle scene that reminds us of the hills and mountains around Hong Kong and right outside our door on Barker Road. Both *Harbor at Sunset* by Alex Packham and *Cat Boat on Bass River* by Ann Sullivan portray sailboats on the water; the former reminds us of the long history of commerce and shipping in Hong Kong and Macau, whereas the latter evokes the pleasure and calm of enjoying the region's many bays and inlets on a beautiful day. The vibrant colors in the works by Eileen Hoffman and Nu'a Bon further connect and enhance these themes.

*Siren* and *A Form in which the Spirit Appears* by Rose Dickson are reminiscent of the rocks and cliffs that make up the many islands in Hong Kong and Macau, each with their own cultures, people, and heritage. The diversity of landscapes and cultures is a commonality shared by the United States, Hong Kong, and Macau.

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We welcome you to the Residence and invite you to enjoy these and the other works of art featured throughout the house. We hope the art reminds you of the importance of protecting our natural landscapes and oceans as well as preserving the unique history and culture that characterizes Hong Kong and Macau.

Consul General Gregory C. May  
Hong Kong and Macau  
May 2024

## Artist Biographies

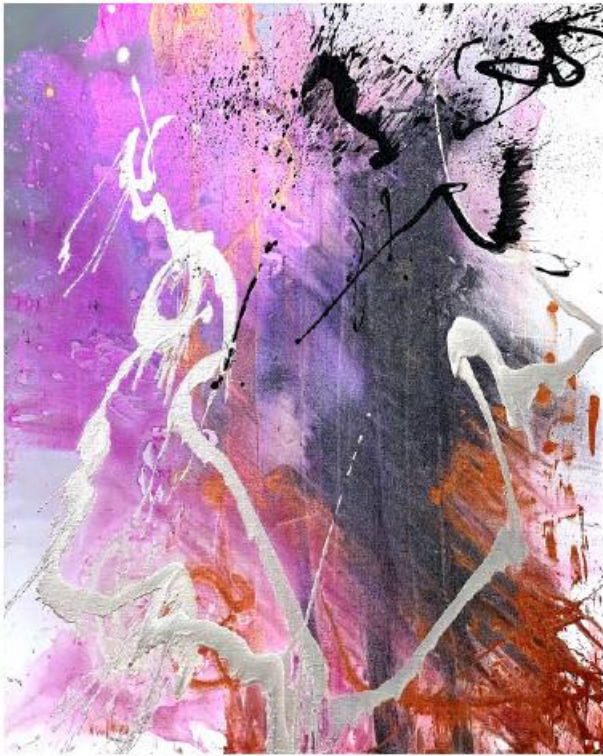
### Nu'a Bon (born 1954)

Nu'a Bon's artworks are powerful social commentaries that highlight "the enduring legacy of colonialism, commodity capitalism, and violence." Composed at the site of the first U.S. convention on feminism and women's rights in Seneca Falls, New York, *ícaro 1082 Feminism, 19th Amendment (1848), Seneca Falls, New York* emphasizes the search for justice in North American society. "His bold and impactful use of [colors], gestural brushstrokes, and interplay of negative and positive space...draws the viewer into a meditative exploration of our collective past."

Bon studied at the University of Hawaii; Columbia University, New York; and the New School for Social Research, New York. In the 1970s, he participated in workshops with notable photographers Ansel Adams and Minor White, which informed his career as a photojournalist and corporate annual report photographer. Additionally, Bon served as an art professor in Hong Kong and throughout China and studied with plant spirit healers in the diverse ecosystems of the Amazon and Africa. The artist lives and works in Abiquiú and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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**Title of Artwork Displayed: ícaro 1082 Feminism, 19th Amendment (1848), Seneca Falls, New York**



Year Created: 2016

Format: Earth pigments and acrylic polymer on linen canvas

Dimensions: 60 x 48 x 2 in (152,4 × 121,9 × 5,1 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Santa Fe, New Mexico

## **Rose Dickson (born 1989)**

Rose Dickson creates archetypal and futurist abstract forms using a variety of media, including painting, ceramic, cast metal, and textiles. Her work blends shape and pattern to convey a language of emotional connectedness. *A Form in which the Spirit Appears* and *Siren*—the three-dimensional cast aluminum sculptures exhibited here—originated as “subconscious finger drawings or tracings in sand” and now completed evoke “ant tunnels, fossils, text, or spells.”

Dickson graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio art from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in fiber and material studies

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from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She was an artist resident at MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, New Hampshire, and Organhaus Art Space, Chongqing, China. The artist lives and works near the Angeles National Forest in California.

**Title of Artwork Displayed: A Form in which the Spirit Appears**



Year Created: 2022

Format: Aluminum

Dimensions: 21 x 20 1.2 x 1 ¾ in (53,3 x 52,1 x 4,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Tujung, California

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**Title of Artwork Displayed: Siren**



Year Created: 2022

Format: Aluminum

Dimensions variable: 9 × 12 ½ × 1 ½ in.; 15,5 × 13 ¼ × 1 ¾ in. (22.9 × 31.8 × 3.8 cm; 39.4 × 33.7 × 4.4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Tujunga, California

**Gregory Dirr (born 1986)**

Gregory Dirr's creative practice focuses on environmental conservation and humanity's connection to the natural world. "*Flora* speaks about microcosms," he says. "Secret worlds that make up the tapestry of nature... Pollinators like butterflies, moths, birds, even flies and mosquitoes are just as crucial to the survival of the plants and flowers. Our existence as humans

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relies on the wellbeing of these tiny creatures and plants. If we were to lose our miniature worlds it would disrupt the entire planet.”

Dirr received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida. Based in South Florida, he is an artist-in-residence at the Bailey Contemporary Arts Center in Pompano Beach.

**Title of Artwork Displayed: Flora**



Year Created: 2020

Format: Guoache on raw canvas

Dimensions: 18 ½ x 22 ½ in (47 x 57,2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Boca Raton, Florida

**Eileen Hoffman (born 1954)**

Eileen Hoffman weaves traditional textile techniques with unconventional materials, establishing a connection between historical traditions and contemporary feminist ideology. Part of the *Her Mother's Dishes* series, *Northern Bloom #2* originated from the artist's musings while organizing her mother's dinnerware. In this work, Hoffman uses the stories within the

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table setting to narrate the untold stories of women's lives. The small disc shapes represent the dishes displayed on the wall or placed on a table runner, while the dining table symbolizes a blank canvas that women would paint with crystal, fine china, and linen. As Hoffman suggests, the choice of table setting was a reflection of a woman's identity.

After first learning how to knit from her friends' mothers, Hoffman explored textiles through design and weaving classes in middle and high school. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in textiles and sculpture from Indiana University, Bloomington. Exhibitions of her work include the Morris Museum, Morristown, New Jersey; the Society for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh; and the Hudson Opera House, New York.

**Title of Artwork Displayed: Northern Bloom #2**



Year Created: 2016

Format: Chenille stems, fabric, yarn, vinyl

Dimensions: 85 x 31 x 4 in. (215,9 x 78,7 x 10,2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Brooklyn, New York



## Alex Packham (1914 – circa 1988)

Title of Artwork Displayed: Harbor at Sunset



Year Created: Undated

Format: Graphic

Dimensions: 24 x 29 ½ in. (61 x 74,9 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Nitze

## Ann Sullivan (born 1942)

Self-taught artist Ann Sullivan has been painting since childhood, beginning with watercolor before transitioning to oil. Primarily focusing on light and color, Sullivan works mostly from photos but also paints what she sees—inspired by her family and the environment, specifically around the Bass River in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts. “I am more concerned with painting as a whole, with creating a simplified, striking, uncluttered reality, leaving room for the viewer to complete the image and make it their own... The things I paint are metaphors that carry meaning beyond the physical,” she says.

Sullivan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, taught high school biology in New York, and earned graduate credits in education from Hunter College, New York. She owns the Ann Sullivan Gallery, South Yarmouth, and has

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been a painting instructor at the Von Liebig Art Center, Naples, Florida, for over twenty years. Sullivan lives and work between Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Naples, Florida.

**Title of Artwork Displayed: Cat Boat on Bass River**



Year Created: Undated

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 18 x 18 in. (45,7 x 45,7 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts

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