



Art in Embassies

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Art in Embassies Exhibition: United States Embassy Kigali

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

Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Residence of the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda. My wife, Kristin, and I are delighted you could make the time to visit our home, and we hope you enjoy the Art in Embassies exhibition.

Art tells a story and helps bring people together without the need for words. It inspires a range of emotions and is something you can find in every culture around the world.

Art in Embassies provides an opportunity for us to share American art in person and virtually. The works we selected showcase art and artists from the state of Pennsylvania. I was born and raised in the Keystone State, which, like Rwanda, has beautiful landscapes, diverse wildlife, a rich agricultural tradition, and a population with a strong work ethic.

Each work carries special significance for us. *North Wind, Swansea, Pleasant Valley; Valley Below August Skies;* and *Flatiron Mountains* highlight Pennsylvania's natural beauty and varied topography across the seasons. The only downside is they can make a native Pennsylvanian homesick on occasion. We liked *City at Dusk, House on Hill with Figures and Fence,* and *River Village Scene* as well because they evoke Pennsylvania's hardscrabble roots and industrial history, while collectively helping to explain why the Keystone State is the central stone at the summit of the American arch, locking the whole together. Finally, Kristin and I selected *Estate of Joseph Stanley, New Hope, Pennsylvania* because Joseph Barrett is one of our favorite impressionists, and this painting radiates joy and optimism.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Art in Embassies team and to the artists who loaned their works. We would also like to thank the members of the Embassy team who helped with the installation and exhibition.

We hope you enjoy the selections.

Ambassador Eric Kneedler
Kigali, Rwanda

August 2024

Artist Biographies

Joseph Barrett (born 1936)

Joseph Barrett has captured the landscapes and landmarks of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for over forty years. His paintings depict everyday life, often featuring figures engaged in fishing, shopping, or walking leisurely through towns and villages. *Estate of Joseph Stanley, New Hope, Pennsylvania* celebrates a historic property in New Hope, a town located along the Delaware River. Barrett is known for using a vibrant color palette of thick, textural paint inspired by Fauvist painters and for hand carving the frames for his works.

Barrett earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Tyler School of Art in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. His work has been exhibited in galleries and group shows throughout Pennsylvania.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Estate of Joseph Stanley, New Hope, Pennsylvania



Year Created: circa 2011-2017

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 30 x 34 in (76,2 x 86,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Silverman Gallery Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Walter Emerson Baum (1884-1956)

Walter Emerson Baum painted over 2,000 landscapes and cityscapes in oil, watercolor, tempera, and pastels in the style of Pennsylvania Impressionism—an American twentieth-century movement with landscape painters active in and around Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Baum typically painted the quaint charm of Allentown and Manayunk en plein air, or outdoors. Rendered in thick, vigorous brushwork, his cityscapes “display a greater intensity of pure color, with many of the buildings and other objects outlined in black.”

Baum studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, before becoming a member of several organizations, namely the Philadelphia Sketch Club and the Salmagundi Club, New York. His works are in the permanent collections of the Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, among others.

Title of Artwork Displayed: City at Dusk



Year Created: undated

Format: Oil on masonite

Dimensions: 29 ½ x 45 ¾ in. (74,9 x 116,2 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Berman

Title of Artwork Displayed: House on Hill with Figure and Fence



Year Created: undated

Format: Oil on masonite

Dimensions: 39 ¼ x 47 ¾ in. (101 x 121,3 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Berman

Title of Artwork Displayed: River Village Scene



Year Created: undated

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 29 ½ x 34 ½ in. (74,9 x 87,6 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Berman

Jennifer Hansen Rolli (born 1964)

“I...have always occupied myself in the arts. I am motivated by the challenge of putting down in paint my version of what captures my attention and the delight it brings to others.”

Jennifer Hansen Rolli began painting at an early age; she learned the fundamentals of color and light on walks with her father through Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She continues to be inspired by those walks, creating works that invite the viewer to discover and celebrate our everyday world and capturing “little slices of life that are worth immortalizing.” Hansen Rolli earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Kutztown University, Pennsylvania, and ran a design firm in Philadelphia for fifteen years before turning to painting and illustrating children’s books full

time. Her work is regularly featured in *Bucks County Magazine* and in advertisements for the tourism campaign Visit Bucks County. She is an active member of the Salmagundi Club in New York.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Valley Below August Skies



Year Created: 2021

Format: Oil on linen

Dimensions: 36 x 36 in. (91,4 x 91,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Silverman Gallery Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Glenn Harrington (born 1959)

“As books need the reader, and music an audience, so do paintings rely on the viewer to perceive and participate in the work, conveying the visual truths of our world to one another.”

Glenn Harrington is known for his figurative work, critically acclaimed portraits, and oil paintings of the people and landscapes of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. For Harrington, the

“‘spirit of the picture’ is paramount. It sets the mood and voice for the viewer. Yet, in order to understand what we are looking at, we must spend time observing...Ultimately, it is a timeless, transcendent, quality that Harrington is after, honest about our day, yet offering something unique about our time.” His work has been featured in such publications as *American Arts Quarterly*, *American Art Collector*, *International Artists Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *GQ Japan*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and in numerous exhibitions in New York, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Japan.

Title of Artwork Displayed: North Wind, Swansea, Pleasant Valley



Year Created: 2003

Format: Oil on linen on board

Dimensions: 14 x 18 in. (35,6 x 45,7 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Silverman Gallery Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Anita Schrager (born 1945)

“I work exclusively in oil because of the richness of color. Impressionism, basically, has come to mean ‘the effect of light on color.’ That is why it is so important to me to do all or most of my painting outside in plein air. The light changes rapidly, so I begin putting down the large abstract areas of color, trying to work on the entire canvas. The palette must remain clean and pure, and I use a medium that helps the layers of color dry quickly as I move from big masses to smaller spots of color to define shapes, looking for the lightest and darkest. To me, there is no place that I would rather paint than Bucks County.”

Self-described colorist Anita Shrager specializes in landscapes painted en plein air, or outdoors, influenced by the Pennsylvania Impressionists. She studied illustration and painting at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and painting at the Pratt Institute in New York. Shrager’s work has been exhibited throughout Pennsylvania, and she is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Award of Excellence in Oil Painting from the Philadelphia Sketch Club, the Grumbacher Gold Medal for Excellence in Oil, and several awards from the Phillips’ Mill Community Association.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Flatiron Mountains



Year Created: 2021

Format: Oil on linen

Dimensions: 20 x 24 in. (50,8 x 61 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Silverman Gallery Bucks County, Pennsylvania

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