



Art in Embassies

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Art in Embassies Exhibition: United States Embassy Riga

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.”

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Welcome

We have the distinct pleasure and honor to present this Art in Embassies exhibition showcasing American artists whose works convey the beauty of landscapes. Since ancient times, nature has inspired artists to capture landscapes as visual reminders of humankind's connection to the earth. The art in this exhibition was carefully curated to connect to the high regard Latvians place on nature and its role in their culture and heritage. The histories and ways of life of the United States and Latvia are deeply intertwined with their land and coastlines. We also sought to highlight art and artists that captured places and themes of special meaning to us.

The textile creations of fiber artist Eileen Doughty tell colorful stories both inspired by and true to life on the coasts. Similar to the rich history of Latvian woven textiles, Doughty's fiber creations preserve narratives about places in three-dimensional form. *En plein-air* artist Andrei Kushnir communicates the stunning beauty of the American landscape and its role as the powerful stage of our nation's history. Kushnir's vivid depictions of scenes from well-loved American regions chronicle both time and nature's eternal march. His paintings of great American icons parallel Latvians' reverence of the country's sacred spaces both natural and manmade. Meredith Nemirov's collection of paintings reveals the profound and timeless seasonal changes in the natural world. As a painter of trees and forest life, Nemirov created a series of works dedicated to juxtaposing seasonal solstices. In light of Latvia's celebration of these annual rites of nature, we hope this series will be of special significance. Finally, the abstract landscape works of Rosa Vera convey the vivid beauty of nature. Much of Vera's inspiration is derived from local habitats and the need to safeguard their splendor. Similarly, in Latvian culture, flowers, plants, and trees figure prominently in identity, festivities, and celebrations.

The United States and Latvia share a deep love and appreciation for their natural wonders. Our hope is that those who experience this exhibition will become more aware of the many ties that bind our two great nations together.

Ambassador Christopher Robinson and Donka Robinson

Riga, Latvia

July 2024

Artist Biographies

Eileen Doughty

Eileen Doughty's richly textured, diverse fiber works encompass wall hangings, jewelry, and what she terms "three-dimensional thread sculptures." Since sewing her first quilt over thirty years ago, Doughty has explored unconventional materials, such as bubble wrap and masking tape, while incorporating complex narratives into her designs. Landscapes, however, remain her preferred subject matter. For example, *Gulf Coast Lighthouses* depicts historic lighthouses in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The quilt's multiple panels highlight the artist's ability to cohesively blend architectural detail, nature motifs, and pattern. In *Summer on the Sirannon*, Doughty focuses instead on a single scene inspired by the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

Doughty earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has exhibited her work extensively, both in the United States and internationally.

Title of Artwork Displayed: *Gulf Coast Lighthouses*



Year Created: 2000

Format: Machine pieced and appliquéd, hand appliquéd, and inked cottons, ribbon detail

Dimensions: 66 x 86 in (167,6 x 218,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Vienna, Virginia

Title of Artwork Displayed: Summer on the Sirannon



Year Created: 2011

Format: Cotton and silk fabrics, cotton threads, paint

Dimensions: 18 x 24 in (54,7 x 61 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Venna, Virginia

Andrei Kushnir

For over forty years, Andrei Kushnir has explored landscapes across the United States, from bucolic vistas to bustling urban scenes. To fully capture the specific and unique characteristics of the scenery, Kushnir works exclusively outdoors—or *en plein air*—without the aid of drawings or photographs, often braving harsh weather conditions. As part of his process, Kushnir assimilates himself into the surrounding environment, occasionally even using sticks and grass as tools to add surface texture to his canvases.

Born to Ukrainian immigrants, Kushnir grew up in Scott, Mississippi, and Chicago. In 2016, the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley exhibited more than seventy of his paintings, highlighting the communities, farmlands, forests, waterways, and historically significant landmarks of the Shenandoah Valley. His works can be found in the collections of such institutions as the University of Maryland, College Park, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Fort McHenry, Baltimore, By Dawn's Early Light



Year Created: 2018

Format: Oil on panel

Dimensions: 7 x 12 in. (17,8 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Washington, D.C.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Sugarloaf Mountain, Home on the Range



Year Created: 2007

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 24 in. (30,5 x 61 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Washington, D.C.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Autumn at Pennyfield Lock



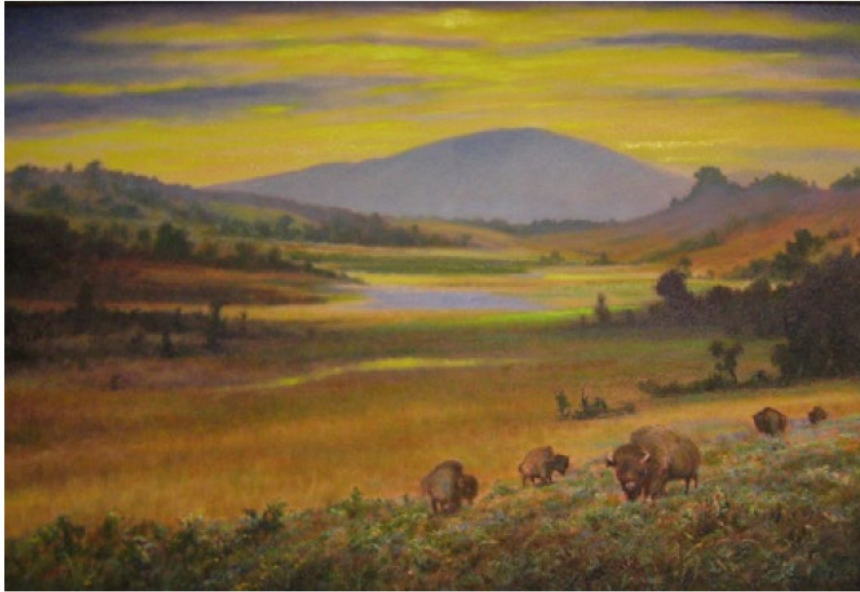
Year Created: 2004

Format: Oil on canvas

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

Courtesy of the artist, Washington, D.C.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Where the Buffalo Roam



Year Created: 2019

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 24 x 36 in. (61 x 91,4 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Washington, D.C.

Meredith Nemirov

Painter Meredith Nemirov draws inspiration from the landscape of her Southwestern Colorado home, particularly the aspen trees that grow throughout the state. Nemirov's oeuvre varies from naturalistic depictions of the environment to more stylized, abstract compositions. In *Forest Dance*, she fills the pictorial space with pattern and linear elements based on the topographic markings of historic maps. In her *Solstice* series, conversely, she conveys the visual contrast between summer and winter, capturing the effects of color, texture, and light unique to each season. Intimate in scale, Nemirov hopes these paintings will bring the viewer "a more acute awareness of their own surroundings and a renewed fascination and careful consideration for the natural world."

Born and raised in New York City, Nemirov received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Parsons School of Design, New York. She moved to Colorado in 1988. Her work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions across the United States.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Old Apple Tree



Year Created: 2015

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Aspens Out the Window



Year Created: 2016

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Out the Studio Window



Year Created: 2015

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Early Morning Leaves



Year Created: 2016

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Nothing But Flowers, Daisies



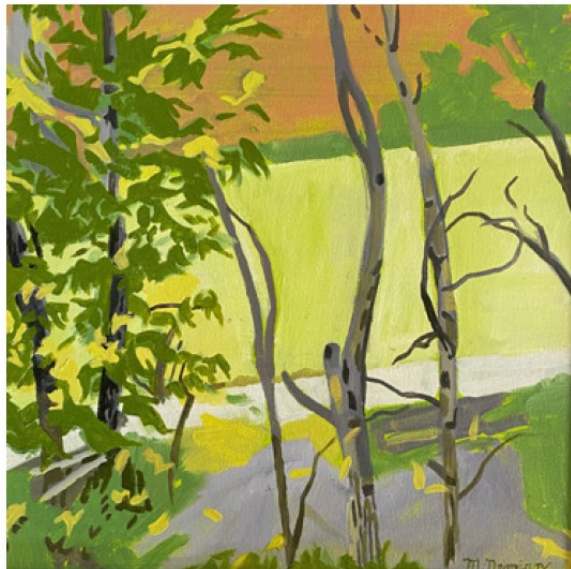
Year Created: 2016

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Last Summer Painting



Year Created: 2016

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Snowy Afternoons



Year Created: 2016

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Young Apple



Year Created: 2015

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Looking South



Year Created: 2015

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Looking East to the Cimarrons



Year Created: 2016

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Yellow Columbines



Year Created: 2016

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Elm Out the Window



Year Created: 2015

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 12 x 12 in. (30,5 x 30,5 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Title of Artwork Displayed: Forest Dance



Year Created: undated

Format: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 26 ¼ x 42 ½ in. (66,7 x 108 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Ridgeway, Colorado

Rosa Vera

Peruvian-born painter Rosa Vera creates brightly colored, expressive works that reflect her bicultural and bilingual heritage. Her figural work embodies such themes as Latinx traditions and stories, immigration, and family experiences, which she executes not just in paint but also collage, encaustic, fabric, and gold leaf. Recently, she has begun to focus more on landscape painting to “depict abstractly the beauty of nature” in the wake of climate change. Vera received a master’s degree in business administration from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and worked in international finance and economics before embarking on a career in fine arts. She has exhibited nationally and internationally and currently lives between Bethesda, Maryland, and Lima, Peru.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Early Spring



Year Created: 2022

Format: Acrylic on wood panel

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

Courtesy of the artist, Bethesda, Maryland

Title of Artwork Displayed: Poppies and Camellias



Year Created: 2019

Format: Acrylic on paper

Dimensions: 20 ½ x 20 ½ in. (52,1 x 52,1 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Bethesda, Maryland

Acknowledgements

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