



Art in Embassies

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Art in Embassies Exhibition: United States Embassy Bamako

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

Ambassador's Statement

I have been a passionate New York Yankees fan since I moved to the United States at age twelve. During those early years, my father forbade me from watching anything on TV except sports. Baseball became my favorite pastime; it's how I learned English and learned to love Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio.

I asked Art in Embassies to help me put together an exhibition that would celebrate my journey of loving my country. I am a Jersey Girl and a Yankees fan, and all the art in my home reflect those passions. While searching for the perfect painting of Babe Ruth, I found a New Jersey artist from my hometown of Flemington, James Fiorentino, who generously loaned two pieces that now serve as the centerpieces for this exhibition. The rest of the works honor New Jersey and New York and the experience of an immigrant who grew up to be an Ambassador. Only in America. In Bamako.

Ambassador Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen
Bamako, Republic of Mali

Artist Biographies

James Fiorentino (born 1977)

"The *Goat Hill* painting was inspired by D&R Greenways' preservation of the land. Like many of their properties, Goat Hill has both historical and natural significance. The location is high above the Delaware River, just south of Lambertville, New Jersey. Now a state preserve, there are stunning views of the river. General George Washington stood on the rocky promontory of Goat Hill in December 1776, checking to see if the Durham boats he had commandeered were effectively hidden from British eyes."

“*The Babe* is one of many originals painted of Babe Ruth over the last thirty years. As a Yankee fan and someone who appreciates the history of baseball, there is no larger-than-life person to illustrate. Also, one of the greatest faces to capture in all sports.”

At the age of fifteen, James Fiorentino gained recognition as the youngest artist to be featured in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, notably for his portrayal of Reggie Jackson, and in 1998, he became the youngest artist to be inducted into the prestigious New York Society of Illustrators. Fiorentino graduated from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and went on to paint many famous athletes, including Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Cal Ripken Jr., Arnold Palmer, Muhammad Ali, Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera, and Tiger Woods. His works, which include landscapes, portraits, seascapes, still lifes, and animals, have been showcased in museums, galleries, and private collections around the world.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Goat Hill



Year Created: 2019

Format: Watercolor

Dimensions: 22 x 30 in (55,9 x 76,2 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Flemington, New Jersey

Title of Artwork Displayed: The Babe



Year Created: 2019

Format: Watercolor

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

Courtesy of the artist, Flemington, New Jersey

Carol M. Highsmith (born 1946)

Carol M. Highsmith is a photographer, author, and publisher who has photographed landscapes, architecture, rural and urban areas, and everyday people across the United States, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, as a record of the early twenty-first century. Highsmith was directly influenced by Frances Benjamin Johnston, a pioneering female photographer who donated her life's work to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Inspired both by Johnston's art and her generosity, Highsmith also donated her life's work, more than 100,000 images, to the Library of Congress.

Ellis Island is a federally owned island in New York Harbor, situated within New Jersey and New York, that for more than sixty years was the busiest immigrant inspection and processing station in the United States. Today, it is part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument and is accessible to the public by ferry. The main building, on the north side of the island, is now a national museum of immigration.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Aerial view of Ellis Island, Jersey City, New Jersey



Year Created: 1980

Format: Photo print

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

Collection of Art in Embassies; Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Warren K. Leffler (1926—2014)

American photographer Warren K. Leffler worked for *U.S. News & World Report* during the civil rights movement. Although based primarily in Washington, D.C., Leffler also traveled to the South to cover many events for the magazine.

A gift from the citizens of France to celebrate Franco American friendship, the Statue of Liberty commemorates America's founding principles of liberty, freedom, and opportunity for all. Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi designed the statue, Richard Morris Hunt prepared the plans for the 89-foot-high pedestal, and French engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel designed the iron framework that supports the copper sheathing. Many consider this frame noteworthy in itself because of its ability to support an irregularly shaped structure subject to high winds. More than sixteen million immigrants passed by the landmark on the way to the Ellis Island Immigration Station.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Jersey City, N.J. Story



Year Created: 1974

Format: Photo print

Dimensions: 20 x 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (50,8x 34,9 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies; U.S. News & World Report magazine photograph collection (Library of Congress); Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Title of Artwork Displayed: Statue of Liberty, Liberty Island, Manhattan, New York County, NY



Year Created: undated

Format: Photo print

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

Collection of Art in Embassies; Historic American Engineering Record (Library of Congress)

Reginald Marsh (1898—1954)

Reginald Marsh was a painter, illustrator, and printmaker renowned for his lively depictions of burlesque shows, throngs of crowds at Coney Island, and bustling ship harbors. Although primarily known for his paintings of New York City, Marsh also documented his extensive travels throughout the United States and abroad. In the 1920s and 1930s, he traveled several times to Florida, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, focusing on idyllic views of foliage and architecture rather than gritty urban scenes. During this time, Marsh experimented with bright watercolor washes as he sought to capture the shifting light of tropical sunshine.

Born in Paris to artist parents, Marsh and his family immigrated to New Jersey when he was two years old. He graduated from Yale Art School, New Haven, Connecticut, and provided

illustrations to many publications, including the *New Yorker*, the *New York Daily News*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Esquire*, and *Life*. His work is in the collections of such museums as the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Modern Art, all in New York; and the Art Institute of Chicago, among many others.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Ferry Boat



Year Created: 1927

Format: Watercolor

Dimensions: 23 x 29 in. (58,4 x 73,7 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of William Benton

Title of Artwork Displayed: Breakers



Year Created: 1927

Format: Watercolor

Dimensions: 27 x 32 ¾ in. (68,6 x 83,2 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of William Benton

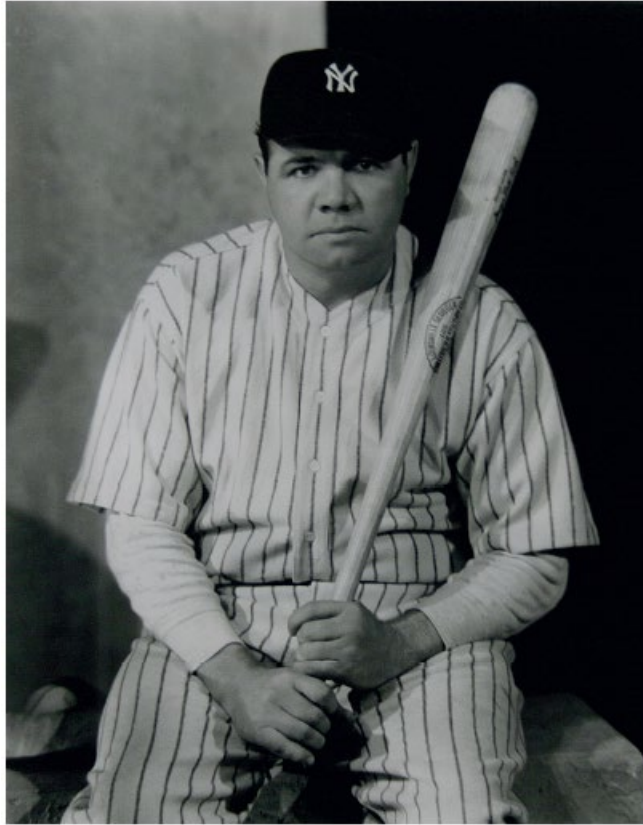
Nickolas Murray (1892—1965)

Nickolas Muray specialized in photographic portraits of famous artists, writers, musicians, actors, athletes, and politicians. His most notable subjects include painter Frida Kahlo and actress Marilyn Monroe, and he took the first color photographs for companies such as Coca-Cola and General Foods. “Photography, fortunately, to me has not only been a profession but also a contact between people—to understand human nature and record, if possible, the best in each individual,” said Hungarian-born Muray.

George Herman “Babe” Ruth Jr. was a professional athlete who played twenty-two seasons in Major League Baseball (MLB) from 1914 to 1935. Nicknamed “the Bambino” and “the Sultan of Swat,” he began his career as a stellar left-handed pitcher for the Boston Red Sox but achieved his greatest fame as a slugging outfielder for the New York Yankees. Over the course of his

career, Ruth set many MLB batting and pitching records. He was one of the first five inductees into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Babe Ruth



Year Created: c. 1938

Format: Photographic print

Dimensions: 19 x 16 ½ in. (48,3 x 41,9 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D.C. Permission to display by the Family of Babe Ruth and the Babe Ruth Baseball League c/o CMG Worldwide, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

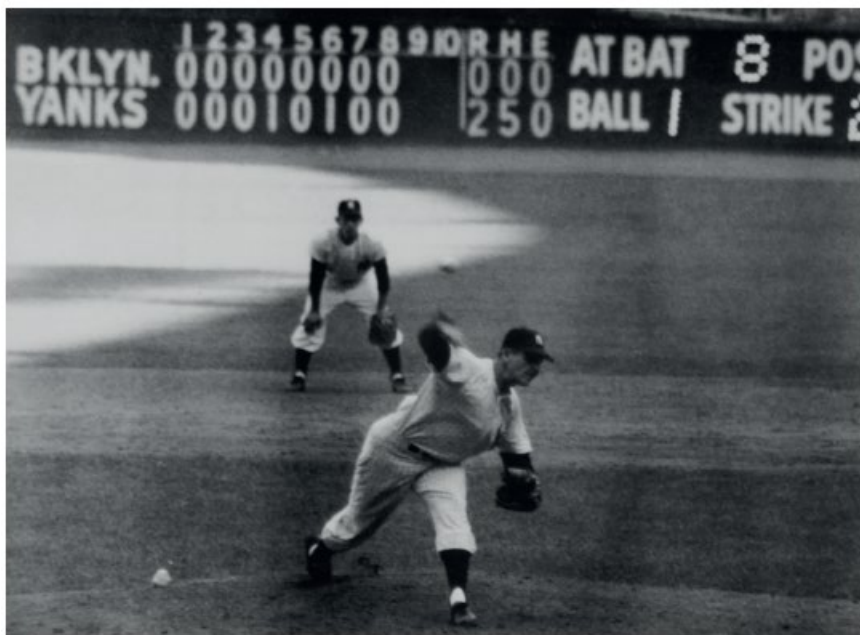
Arthur B. Rickerby (1921—1972)

A native of New York City, Arthur B. Rickerby was one of the first press photographers to experiment with 35mm film. He was best known for his photographic essays on sports and was

nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his active role in developing a more realistic approach to photojournalism.

The middle of his career was marked by capturing of one of the most famous sports images of all time: New York Yankee Don Larsen pitching the only perfect game in World Series history. On October 8, 1956, Larsen threw ninety-seven pitches at twenty-seven batters from his arch-rival team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, who were unable to score.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Don Larsen pitching the perfect game



Year Created: 1956

Format: Photographic print

Dimensions: 16 ½ x 18 ½ in. (41,9 x 47 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Photographer Unknown

Title of Artwork Displayed: Babe Ruth



Year Created: c. 1932

Format: Photographic print

Dimensions: 26 x 20 ¾ in. (66 x 52,7 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC USZ62 90308

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