



Art in Embassies

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Art in Embassies Exhibition: United States Embassy Tallinn

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 and scope 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

As America marks its 250th anniversary, we reflect not only on our history of independence and democracy, but on the artistic vision that has shaped our national identity and enriched the world.

The works assembled here through the Office of Art in Embassies represent the boundless creativity that has defined American art across two and a half centuries—from our earliest days as a republic to this moment of reflection and renewal. These pieces speak to the restless innovation, the bold experimentation, and the profound humanity that characterize American artistic expression.

The artists represented in this exhibition continue a legacy that spans from the Hudson River School to abstract expressionism, from folk art traditions to contemporary digital media, from American realism to classical and fine art.

Estonia and the United States share a deep appreciation for the power of culture to preserve identity, inspire hope, and forge connections across borders. Just as Estonia's creative spirit sustained its people through decades of occupation and emerged triumphant, those who carried their heritage to new shores—among them Louis Kahn—have enriched the world with their vision. That same spirit lives on in the work of Marc Klionsky, featured in this exhibition, whose journey to the United States captures that enduring story of resilience and reinvention. Together, these works illustrate how American art has chronicled our struggles, celebrated our diversity, and given voice to our highest aspirations.

I am grateful to these talented artists for sharing their vision, and to the Art in Embassies staff for their dedication to cultural diplomacy. May these works inspire dialogue, spark imagination, and strengthen the bonds between our two nations.

Ambassador Roman Pipko
Tallinn, Estonia

Artists' Biographies

Carol M. Highsmith (born 1946)

Carol M. Highsmith is a photographer, author, and publisher who documents landscapes, architecture, and everyday life across the United States, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Her photographic archive spans monumental sites, such as Ellis Island in New York Harbor, to the streets, buildings, and communities of everyday American life. She has donated more than 100,000 images, copyright free, to the Library of Congress for public use. She has described this project as her life's work: documenting American life in the early twenty-first century for posterity. Highsmith credits iconic photographers Frances Benjamin Johnston and Dorothea Lange as her influence. After attending the Corcoran School of Photography in Washington, D.C., she traveled the country, photographing all fifty states for Random House. Highsmith considers herself a documentarian and has often been referred to as "America's Photographer" because of the breadth of her publicly accessible photography of the United States.

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, Washington, D.C.; Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Marc Klionsky (1927—2017)

Born in the Soviet Union, Marc Klionsky painted everything and everybody, from world leaders and music icons to New York street life and the Holocaust. His career began in Moscow, where he became the youngest artist to exhibit at the State Tretyakov Gallery. In the years that followed, Klionsky's work was exhibited throughout the country and abroad in China, Israel, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

In 1974, amid restrictions on intellectual freedom, Klionsky emigrated with his family to New York City. There, he developed a form of American realism centered on portraiture and the representation of public life. His work later became the subject of the ABC television program *Canvas of Freedom*, followed by a United States Information Agency documentary shown in ninety-two countries.

His paintings are held in prominent collections of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.; and the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, among others.

Title of Artwork Displayed: God Bless America



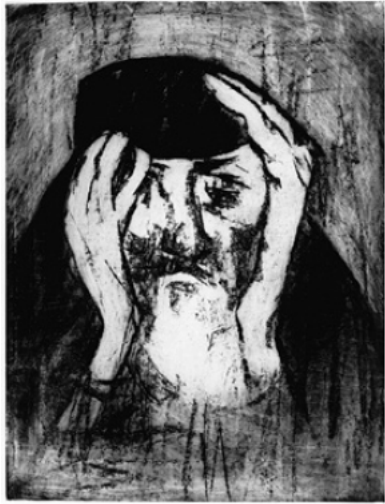
Year Created: 1991

Format: Digital photo print on particle board

Dimensions: 38 ½ x 60 ¼ in. (98 x 153 cm)

Courtesy of a private collection

Title of Artwork Displayed: Witness



Year Created: 1962

Format: Etching

Dimensions: 36 x 24 in. (91,5 x 70 cm)

Courtesy of a private collection

Title of Artwork Displayed: Lullaby



Year Created: 1962

Format: Etching

Dimensions: 36 x 24 in. (91,5 x 70 cm)

Courtesy of a private collection

Title of Artwork Displayed: Childhood



Year Created: 1962

Format: Etching

Dimensions: 36 x 24 in. (91,5 x 70 cm)

Courtesy of a private collection

Title of Artwork Displayed: Hands



Year Created: 1962

Format: Etching

Dimensions: 36 x 24 in. (91,5 x 70 cm)

Courtesy of a private collection

Dominick Labino (1910—1987)

Dominick Labino was a scientist, inventor, artist, and master glass craftsman whose artistry and technical innovations helped shape the studio glass movement. He initially trained as an engineer at the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and held more than sixty U.S. patents for industrial glass processes. Notably, he developed heat-resistant glass fibers used in protective materials for the Apollo spacecraft.

After a successful career as an engineer, Labino retired to devote himself to creative glassmaking. In 1962, working with Harvey Littleton at the Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, he developed a formula for melting glass at lower temperatures in small furnaces that could be used by individual artists, helping to make studio glassblowing more accessible and widespread.

Labino is celebrated as a master of twentieth-century glassmaking for his technical expertise and his ability to create rich color and graceful, fluid forms. Though he considered himself an inventor rather than an artist, Labino once said, “The possibilities are all inherent in the glass itself, in the blowpipe, and in yourself.”

Title of Artwork Displayed: Cobalt Blue Vase with Side Prints



Format: Fire-blown glass

Dimensions: 11 x 7 x 5 in. (27,9 x 17,8 x 12,7 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Dominick Labino

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 American south to cover many events for the magazine.

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



Year Created: 1974

Format: Photo print

Dimensions: 20 x 13 ¾ in. (50,8 x 34,9 cm)

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

Roy Lichtenstein (1923—1997)

Often credited as one of the founders of American pop art, Roy Lichtenstein was an innovative painter, printmaker, and sculptor who helped define the post-World War II American art scene. Raised in New York City, he was exposed to the city's cultural life at an early age. He received a traditional art education under realist painter Reginald Marsh at the Art Students League in New York, and his early artistic influences included Rembrandt, Honoré Daumier, and Pablo Picasso.

It wasn't until the early 1960s that Lichtenstein developed his signature style using imagery found in advertising and comic books. He rendered each figure with his trademark Ben-Day dots, a patterning technique derived from commercial printing, to create texture and tonal variations. Lichtenstein noted that he "gravitated towards what he would characterize as the 'dumbest' or 'worst' visual item he could find and then went on to alter or improve it." This process of reworking familiar images became a defining feature of his art.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Reverie



Year Created: 1965

Format: Offset lithograph

Dimensions: 35 ¼ x 30 ¼ in. (89,5 x 76,8 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Philip Morris Companies, Inc.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Lincoln Center 4th New York Film Festival Philharmonic Hall



Year Created: 1966

Format: Offset lithograph

Dimensions: 43 ½ x 37 ¼ in. (110,5 x 94,6 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Evelyn Farland

Title of Artwork Displayed: Bicentennial Print



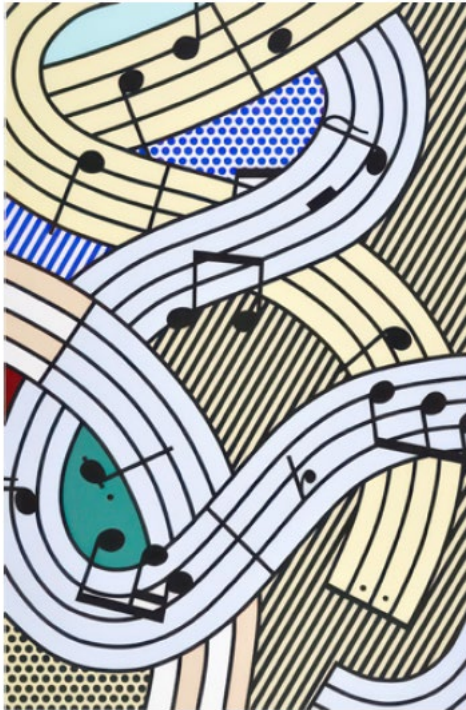
Year Created: 1975

Format: Lithograph and screenprint on paper

Dimensions: 38 ¾ x 30 ¾ in. (98,4 x 78,1 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of the Mobile Corporation

Title of Artwork Displayed: Composition III



Format: Silkscreen on paper

Dimensions: 54 x 39 in. (137,2 x 99,1 cm)

Courtesy of the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of the artist

Title of Artwork Displayed: Art Critic



Year Created: 1996

Format: Offset lithograph

Dimensions: 28 ½ x 22 in. (72,4 x 55,9 cm)

Courtesy of the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies, Washington, D.C.

Grandma Moses (1860—1961)

American folk artist Grandma Moses, born Anna Mary Robertson Moses, spent much of her life working on farms in rural New York and Virginia. At age seventy-eight, when arthritis made embroidery difficult, she turned to painting. A self-taught artist, she painted farm scenes and nostalgic rural traditions, often using materials she had at hand, such as house paint and leftover fiberboard.

She sold her paintings at county fairs and small shops until 1938, when New York City art collector Louis J. Caldor discovered Moses's work in a drugstore window in upstate New York and introduced her to the commercial art world. Her paintings quickly gained popularity as viewers connected with her portrayal of everyday life and traditions such as holidays and barn

dances in the American countryside during a period of rapid social change. Moses lived for just over 100 years and created more than 1,500 paintings.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Hoosick Valley



Format: Archival print

Dimensions: 34 x 33 in. (86,4 x 83,8 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887—1986)

Georgia O'Keeffe was a leading figure in American modernism, whose paintings of flowers, skyscrapers, and the landscapes of New Mexico expanded painting toward abstraction. She began her art education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, and then made her way to New York City, where she studied traditional painting at the Art Students League of New York. Inspired by the ideas of art educator Arthur Wesley Dow, she began experimenting with

abstraction. By the 1920s, O'Keeffe was widely recognized among the New York art community for her paintings of skyscrapers and large close-up views of flowers.

A visit to New Mexico in 1929 proved instrumental in O'Keeffe's artistic career. The people, landscape, architecture, and animal bones of the Southwest became recurring subjects in her later works. In 1970, a major retrospective of her work was held at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and she was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Gerald Ford and the National Medal of Arts from President Ronald Reagan.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Proof Page—Nine Images



Format: Photographic proof on paper

Dimensions: 35 ½ x 45 in. (90,2 x 114,3 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Olga Hirshhorn © 2026 Georgia O'Keeffe Museum / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Frank Stella (1936—2024)

Prolific painter, sculptor, and printmaker Frank Stella is recognized for his pivotal contributions to minimalism, post-painterly abstraction, and color field painting. Born in Massachusetts, he studied art at Princeton University, New Jersey, before relocating to New York, where he quickly gained acclaim for his first major series, the *Black Paintings*, which were included in an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.

Despite early success, Stella continued to experiment with form, geometry, space, and materials to push the boundaries of abstraction. By the mid-1960s, his canvases assumed curvilinear shapes and a bright palette as seen in works such as *Untitled (Rabat)*, which is based on a series of paintings named after Moroccan cities, created with Day-Glo® acrylics. Rejecting many of the norms associated with artmaking, and in discussing minimalism, Stella famously remarked, “What you see is what you see.”

Title of Artwork Displayed: *Untitled (Rabat)*



Year Created: 1964

Format: Screenprint

Dimensions: 28 ½ x 27 ¾ in. (72,4 x 70,5 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Berman © 2026

The Estate of Frank Stella / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Title of Artwork Displayed: Symphony



Year Created: 1990

Format: Lithograph

Dimensions: 84 ¼ x 44 ¼ in. (213, 9 x 112,3 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Tyler Graphics, New York © 2026 The Estate of Frank Stella / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Andy Warhol (1928—1987)

Painter, illustrator, designer, and printmaker Andy Warhol was a central figure in the pop art movement and one of the most recognizable artists of the twentieth century. Warhol's work drew upon American consumer and popular culture, including comics and advertisements; Hollywood celebrities like Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor; and famous brands such as Campbell's Soup. Through these images, his work both celebrated and critiqued the consumer-driven American experience in the post-World War II era.

In a 1963 interview with *ARTnews*, Warhol said, “the reason I’m painting this way is that I want to be a machine.” Yet each silkscreen or print was one-of-a-kind, resulting from his creative decisions related to composition, color, and format.

Warhol grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the son of immigrants from what is now Slovakia. From a young age, he attended free art classes at the Carnegie Museum of Art and later earned a degree in pictorial design from the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University). Before achieving international acclaim for his screenprints, Warhol worked as a commercial designer in New York City, creating illustrations for clients including *Vogue*, Tiffany & Co., and Columbia Records. He is credited with expanding the definition of fine art, and his legacy lives on through the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Andy Warhol Museum, both in his hometown of Pittsburgh.

Title of Artwork Displayed: Red Jackie



Year Created: 1964

Format: Silkscreen

Dimensions: 40 x 40 in. (101,6 x 101,6 cm)

Courtesy of Linnar Viik and PoCo – Pop and Contemporary Art Museum, Tallinn, Estonia

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Title of Artwork Displayed: Flowers (Black and White)



Year Created: 1974

Format: Screenprint on Arches paper

Dimensions: 47 ¾ x 34 in. (121,3 x 86,4 cm)

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Title of Artwork Displayed: After the Party



Year Created: 1979

Format: Silkscreen

Dimensions: 28 ½ x 37 in. (72,4 x 94 cm)

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Gift of Bob Colacello © 2026 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Photographer Unknown

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



Format: Photo print

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

Collection of Art in Embassies, Washington, D.C.; Historic American Engineering Record (Library of Congress)