

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

January 20, 2015

Secretary Kerry to Award the 2014 U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts -

Secretary of State John Kerry will award the second U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts during a luncheon ceremony at 12:15 p.m. on January 21, 2015, in the Department's Benjamin Franklin Room.

The Department of State's office of Art in Embassies (AIE) is proud to announce that the distinguished recipients are Xu Bing, Mark Bradford, Sam Gilliam, Maya Lin, Julie Mehretu, Pedro Reyes, and Kehinde Wiley.

These seven artists will be honored for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the AIE program and international cultural exchange.

Art in Embassies was initiated by the Museum of Modern Art in 1953, and formalized as part of the Department of State by the Kennedy Administration in 1963. One of the United States' premier arts organizations, AIE's public-private partnership has engaged over 20,000 individual and institutional participants in over 200 venues in 190 countries worldwide.

Over the past 52 years, AIE has played a leading role in U.S. public diplomacy by promoting cross-cultural dialogue through the visual arts, and by sponsoring dynamic artist exchanges worldwide. In 2012 AIE initiated the biennial U.S. Department of State- Medal of Arts award to formally acknowledge artists who have played an instrumental role in promoting creativity, collaboration and understanding in support of American diplomacy.

The Secretary's remarks will be open to the press.

Pre-set for video cameras: 11:00 a.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance. Final access for journalists and still photographers: 11:30 a.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance. Opportunity to interview the artist honorees will be post luncheon, 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) A U.S. Government-issued identification (Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign Press Center), (2) a media issued photo identification card, or (3) a letter from their employer on letterhead verifying their employment as a journalist, accompanied by an official photo identification card (driver's license, passport).

For further information, please contact the Press Office at 202-647-2492 or Christine Foushee at FousheeCT@State.gov or 202.431.6890.