

# 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 tempo-

rary and permanent exhibitions for the representational spaces of all U.S. chanceries, consulates, and chief-of-mission 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.

## Introduction

It is an honor to have the opportunity to display a selection of American art at my official residence in Dushanbe. The works I have chosen to present in my residence during my tenure as the U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan is based on personal connections to the art, and in many cases, to the artists themselves. Art is a depiction of life itself and in this exhibition reflects my own life and values.

Among the pop art in this exhibition, Robert Indiana's *Love* reminds me of the state, Indiana, where my husband, Matthias Mitman, and I lived and worked. Both the Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg works evoke my deep feelings of patriotism that continue to grow after so many years of service to the United States of America. Johns' *Tattered Banner* is especially striking to me as a work that appears simple at first glance, then fills with meaning and color with further reflection.

The landscape paintings of Walter Emerson Baum and Giovanni Martino depict scenes from Pennsylvania, where I was born and where my son, Kurt Mitman, lives. R. Gordon Arneson's *Cattails* and *Ecstasis II* are scenes from Maryland and

remind me of happy times spent at the seashore. *Hollyhocks* by Ann Eubank, who is a personal friend of my sister-in-law, Dr. Andrea Mitman, evokes memories of enjoyable visits to Andrea and her family in Tappahannock, Virginia. Ann's work also reminds me of my father, who grew hollyhocks in our backyard.

The exhibition's flagship piece is *Fantasia* by the artist Jeff Ferst. The geometrical landscape is simultaneously grounded in reality and musical in feeling, and it lights up the Residence in a truly unexpected fashion.

I hope you will be as captivated as I am by this art, and that this exhibition inspires you to think about the ways that art connects people around the world. I am grateful to the U.S. Department of State's office of ART in Embassies and the artists whose generosity has made the exhibition possible.

**Ambassador Susan Marsh Elliott**

*Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
January 2013*

Walter Emerson **Baum** | 1884-1956



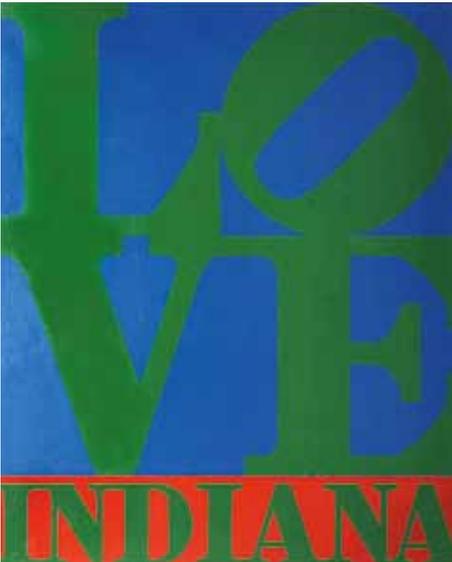
**Landscape — River, Canal**, undated  
Oil on canvas, 38 ¼ x 46 ¼ in.  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Berman to  
ART in Embassies, Washington, D.C.

Robert **Indiana** | 1928

**Love**

Poster, 30 x 25 in.

Courtesy of ART in Embassies, Washington, D.C.



Robert **Rauschenberg** | 1925-2008

**Domicile**, 1996

Silkscreen, 48 x 34 ½ in. Courtesy of the Foundation  
for Art and Preservation in Embassies, Washington, D.C.

## Margaret McBride

**Window Series**, undated  
Oil on canvas, 53 ¼ x 61 ¼ in.  
Gift of the artist to ART in  
Embassies, Washington, D.C.



## Giovanni Martino | 1908-1998

**First Snowfall**, undated  
Oil on canvas, 32 x 40 in.  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Berman  
to ART in Embassies, Washington, D.C.



## Ann Eubank

**Hollyhocks**, undated.  
Oil on canvas, 12 x 12 in.  
Courtesy of the artist, Tappahannock, Virginia

## Robert Gordon **Arneson**



***Ecostasis II***, undated

*Oil on Masonite, 26 x 30 in.*

*Gift of the Estate of Nancy Long Arneson  
to ART in Embassies, Washington, D.C.*

***Cattails***, undated

*Oil on Masonite, 36 x 24 in.*

*Gift of the Estate of Nancy Long Arneson  
to ART in Embassies, Washington, D.C.*

## Gifford **Beal** | 1879–1956



***Flowers***, ca. 1928

*Oil on canvas, 39 x 51 ½ in.*

*Gift of Kraushaar Galleries, New York, New York, to ART in Embassies, Washington, D.C.*

Jeff **Ferst** | 1955



**Fantasia (Quartet)**, 2010. Oil on canvas, overall 72 x 108 in.; each of 4: 72 x 24 in.  
*Courtesy of the artist, Scottsdale, Arizona*



Jasper **Johns** | 1930

**Tattered Banner**, undated  
*Lithograph, 25 ½ x 33 in.*  
*Gift of the Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, New York, to ART in Embassies, Washington, D.C.*

**Acknowledgments** **Washington** Camille Benton, Curator • Theresa Beall, Registrar • Marcia Mayo, Senior Editor • Sally Mansfield, Editor • Amanda Brooks, Imaging Manager **Dushanbe** Sayora Sobirova, Translator/Interpreter • Sherzod Abdujabborov, Cultural Affairs Assistant • Sandra Jacobs, Cultural Affairs Officer • Wesley Robertson, Public Affairs Officer **Vienna** Nathalie Mayer, Graphic Designer • Designed by Global Publishing Solutions

United States Embassy **Dushanbe**  
ART in Embassies Exhibition

