

WEBVTT

Kind: captions

Language: en

00:00:24.620 --> 00:00:27.070

I'm Ellen Susman the director of Art in
Embassies

00:00:27.070 --> 00:00:30.990

and it's my pleasure to welcome
Secretary of State and all of you to the

00:00:30.990 --> 00:00:31.860

second

00:00:31.860 --> 00:00:36.860

annual art in embassies Medal of Arts awards. today
we honor seven artists

00:00:36.860 --> 00:00:40.000

whose talent and dedication to their
work

00:00:40.000 --> 00:00:44.330

and mission of cultivating dialogue and
exchange through the visual arts

00:00:44.330 --> 00:00:47.610

has enriched our program for many many
years

00:00:47.610 --> 00:00:51.980

the importance of art and cultural
diplomacy can't be overstated I think

00:00:51.980 --> 00:00:52.330

that

00:00:52.330 --> 00:00:55.860

art is ultimately on the leading edge of

00:00:55.860 --> 00:00:59.309

how we as a nation define
ourselves I think that

00:00:59.309 --> 00:01:02.519

um it's important with the kind of daily

00:01:02.519 --> 00:01:06.630

very rapidly changing geopolitical world
we live in that you have these other

00:01:06.630 --> 00:01:07.790

types of markers

00:01:07.790 --> 00:01:10.790
and cultural diplomacy I think you
create a context in art

00:01:10.790 --> 00:01:14.080
plays that role that way.

00:01:14.080 --> 00:01:17.299
I worked on a piece that is called ear for the

00:01:17.299 --> 00:01:20.600
US consulate in Tijuana

00:01:20.600 --> 00:01:24.830
and he has to do with the idea of
cultural diplomacy because I'm

00:01:24.830 --> 00:01:26.310
interested not so much in what

00:01:26.310 --> 00:01:29.590
each country is saying

00:01:29.590 --> 00:01:33.799
but what they ought to hear.

00:01:33.799 --> 00:01:37.579
if you got the people's heart then

00:01:37.579 --> 00:01:41.189
you can get in the world. I think art can do with this

00:01:41.189 --> 00:01:44.570
because artists really

00:01:44.570 --> 00:01:48.109
international really warm really for

00:01:48.109 --> 00:01:51.679
comes from human beings heart.

00:01:51.679 --> 00:01:55.259
sometimes we're divided by language
etcetera

00:01:55.259 --> 00:01:59.950
so what is interesting is to see what
other ways of communication are possible

00:01:59.950 --> 00:02:03.789
so ides maybe

00:02:03.789 --> 00:02:07.700

transmitted without words.

00:02:07.700 --> 00:02:11.840

I see most art and most artist actually as diplomats
are

00:02:11.840 --> 00:02:16.900

in their own right I really see them
pushing forward

00:02:16.900 --> 00:02:20.170

a conversation in most work.

00:02:20.170 --> 00:02:23.580

so today we honor our artists

00:02:23.580 --> 00:02:27.680

we honor them because at the mirror they
hold up to who we are

00:02:27.680 --> 00:02:32.010

what we hope to be and because they have
the ability to astonish

00:02:32.010 --> 00:02:35.650

to surprise and to inspire to make us think

00:02:35.650 --> 00:02:39.049

in new and hopefully liberating ways

00:02:39.049 --> 00:02:44.030

receiving the Medal of Arts Award down means a lot

00:02:44.030 --> 00:02:48.019

at this moment I tried not to get
excited

00:02:48.019 --> 00:02:51.970

but I got very excited because the
people around me

00:02:51.970 --> 00:02:55.430

it's just like an incentive or a kind of
inspiration to

00:02:55.430 --> 00:02:59.769

to keep working.

00:02:59.769 --> 00:03:04.040

it means that puts a superb smile on my mom's face.

00:03:04.040 --> 00:03:07.470

It's sort of a big thing for me I understand.

00:03:07.470 --> 00:03:12.420
what it means in a larger sense

00:03:12.420 --> 00:03:16.670
that its relationship with my country

00:03:16.670 --> 00:03:17.269
it's an honor to receive an award from anyone

00:03:17.269 --> 00:03:20.359
and so to receive an award in

00:03:20.359 --> 00:03:24.819
in this context is also just an incredible honor.

00:03:24.819 --> 00:03:29.459
All of you are driven to create your works will forever grace the walls
of our embassies

00:03:29.459 --> 00:03:30.450
around the world

00:03:30.450 --> 00:03:35.280
your art is often the first and only
vision of America people in another

00:03:35.280 --> 00:03:36.329
country see

00:03:36.329 --> 00:03:40.440
and as they walk into an annex or stand
in line for a visa

00:03:40.440 --> 00:03:43.519
your art welcomes them into the
home of

00:03:43.519 --> 00:03:47.879
democracy. that is power that this
conversation

00:03:47.879 --> 00:03:48.879
and that is diplomacy.