

Press Release: Eric Wiegardt, AWS-DF NWS—October 1st, 2014

Eric Wiegardt's *Leviathan* Painting to reside in US Embassy Amman Jordan

Sarah Tanguy, curator for the *Art in Embassies (AIE)* exhibition contacted Eric Wiegardt in September. She informed Eric that US Ambassador Alice G Wells, Amman, Jordan, would like to display an acrylic Eric painted, *Leviathan*, in her residence at Amman.

Sarah writes: "Ambassador Wells wants to celebrate the beauty of Washington State and the artistic legacy of its artists as her theme. After reviewing your website, she would like to feature your magnificent painting, *Leviathan*, in her show. As background, AIE has been engaging in cultural exchange as an office of the U.S. Department of State since 1963 under President Kennedy. We put together small loaned exhibitions for the public or representational areas of U.S. Ambassadorial residences overseas."

About Art in Embassies:

"The Art in Embassies program is a service of the Department of State, the purpose being to provide appropriate art for the representational rooms of the Ambassadors' residences and chanceries. We think of this program as cultural diplomacy in action." (Congressional Record, 9/9/65). AIE's role, as originally proposed by President Kennedy and the U.S. Congress, was fully realized in 2005, when the Program took charge of overseeing acquisitions for the permanent art collections for all U.S. newly built chanceries, consulates, annexes, and AID buildings. This broadened function further expands and enhances AIE's mission of cultural diplomacy, uniting American culture and those of the host countries in ongoing artistic conversation. Each work of art is selected and/or commissioned, negotiated, acquired, consolidated, shipped, and ultimately installed in the main representational spaces of the building(s) and the executive office suite. When possible, art on the exterior or grounds of the building (s) achieves greater visibility and exchange with host audiences." (Statement from United States Department of State, Art in Embassies Program official letter.) <http://www.youtube.com/user/ARTinEmbassies>



"For fifty years, Art in Embassies has played an active diplomatic role by creating meaningful cultural exchange through the visual arts. The exhibitions, permanent collections and artist exchanges connect people from the farthest corners of an international community. Extending our reach, amplifying our voice, and demonstrating our inclusiveness are strategic imperatives for America. Art in Embassies cultivates relationships that transcend boundaries, building trust, mutual respect and understanding among peoples. It is a fulcrum of America's global leadership as we continue to work for freedom, human rights and peace around the world."

John Forbes Kerry
U.S. Secretary of State (2013-present)

About Amman Jordan:

Amman is the capital and most populous city of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is the country's political, cultural and commercial centre and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. The Greater Amman area has a population of 2,842,629 as of 2010. The recent economic growth experienced in Amman is unmatched by any other Arab city except those located in the Persian Gulf area. Amman is also the administrative seat of the homonymous governorate. Amman is also ranked a Beta-global city on the World city index, the same category as Abu Dhabi, Kuwait City and Manama.

Amman was named one of the MENA's best cities according to economic, labor, environmental, and socio-cultural factors. Amman is among the most popular locations for multinational corporations to set up their regional offices, alongside Doha and only behind Dubai. Furthermore, it is expected that in the next 10 years these three cities will capture the largest share of multinational corporation activity in the region. It is a major tourist destination in the region and the capital is especially popular among Gulf tourists. (Information from wikipedia.org.)

You can find Eric Wiegardt's watercolor paintings on www.ericwiegardt.com.



Leviathan

The churning Pacific, off the Long Beach Peninsula, brings out both texture and depth.