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## Artists and Their Art Go Abroad



Heron, Warbler and Milkweed; Valentina DuBasky

The State Department recently sent artists to visit local host countries along with their art works – an original concept for the department's Arts in Embassies Program that for more than three decades has been placing original works of art by U.S. Citizens in American diplomatic residences worldwide.

During September and October five American artists and one art historian participated in the new initiative that staff would like to see a permanent part of the program.

The artists are Los Angeles ceramist Karen Kolbitz, who visited Moscow; New York City painter Valentina DuBasky, who visited Riga, Latvia and Tallinn, Estonia; painter Karen Gunderson, also of New York City, who traveled to Lomé, Togo; multimedia painter Johnny Johnson of Fredericksburg Va., who went to Cotonou, Benin; and Brooklyn artist Eve Andree Laramée, who visited Ottawa and Montréal.

Art historian Nicholas Fox Weber, executive director of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in Bethany, Conn., travel to The Hague in the Netherlands, where he discussed the late abstract expressionist artist Josef Albers.

The artists were selected by the U.S. Ambassadors in each country in conjunction with program curators.