The NEC Group of the Art in Embassies Program of the US State Department's Office of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) curated, commissioned, and installed the permanent art collection in November, 2006. The OBO Interiors & Furnishings Division also participated.

Belize

Permanent collection of the Embassy of the United States

Belmopan, Belize

Curator's Note

Belize is an ethnically diverse and culturally rich society made up of Creole, Mestizo, Garifuna, Mayan, European, Middle Eastern, Mennonite, Chinese, and East Indian peoples. The landscape of Belize is similarly rich and diverse encompassing lush tropical rain forests, offshore cayes, and the second largest coral reef in the world. This ecological beauty creates a unique haven for divers, hikers, bird-watchers, and other lovers of nature. The art collection in the US Embassy was selected to celebrate the diversity and beauty of nature—both of the United States and Belize.

The works range from large abstracted landscape paintings to photographs of Belize's exotic terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Photographs by *National Geographic* photographers Raymond Gehman, Stephen Alvarez, Nicole Duplaix, and Barry Tessman depict a variety of subjects such as the moonrise over pre-Columbian ruins, fauna and flora from the Turneffe Atoll, and other images from the Belizean landscape. A series of photographs by Michael Long afford an intimate view of nature in his dramatic close-ups of water cascades. Traces of nature surface in the three lattice-like, floral-shaped sculptures by Susan Plum. Nancy Lovendahl's organic sculptures of ceramic, rope, and brick resound with natural texture and shape. The three grand paintings of Niagara Falls by Allison Schulnik offer divergent impressions of one of America's most iconic natural wonders. Alfredo Arreguin's mosaic painting, *Cosmic Flamingoes*, captures the viewer with flamingoes soaring across a morning sky. Roxanne Rockwell's brightly colored apples and oranges floating through the sky make one ponder the beauty of nature in a fantastical form.

We hope this new permanent art collection for the United State Embassy, Belmopan will inspire the viewer to connect with the natural splendor so abundant in the beautiful country of Belize.

1

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3

Dianne Kornberg
1 *N. Leutkeana II*, 2004
Edition 3/15
2 *N. Leutkeana I*, 2004
Edition 3/15
3 *Celebration 1*, 2004
Edition 3/15
All pigment ink on rag paper

Clayton Frost Merrell
Arboles y Humo, 2005
Oil on panel

Clayton Frost Merrell
Grain of the Sky Triptych, 2005
Oil on panel

Raymond Gehman
Río Frío Cave, Chiquibul Forest Reserve, Belize
Chromira print

Skip Brown
Cay Caulker, Belize
Chromira print

Steve Winter
Belize Zoo, Belize
Chromira print

Stephen Alvarez
Xunantunich near San Ignacio, Belize
Chromira print

Nicole Duplaix
Turneffe Atoll, Belize
Chromira print

Stephen Alvarez
Lamanai Archeological Reserve, Belize
Chromira print

Steve Winter
San Antonio, Belize
Chromira print

Barry Tessman
Untitled
Chromira print

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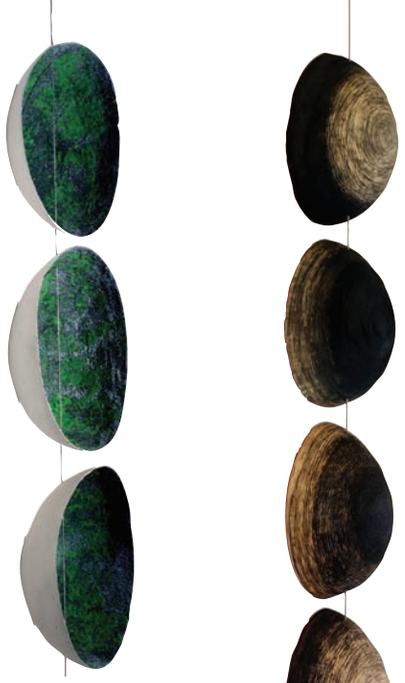
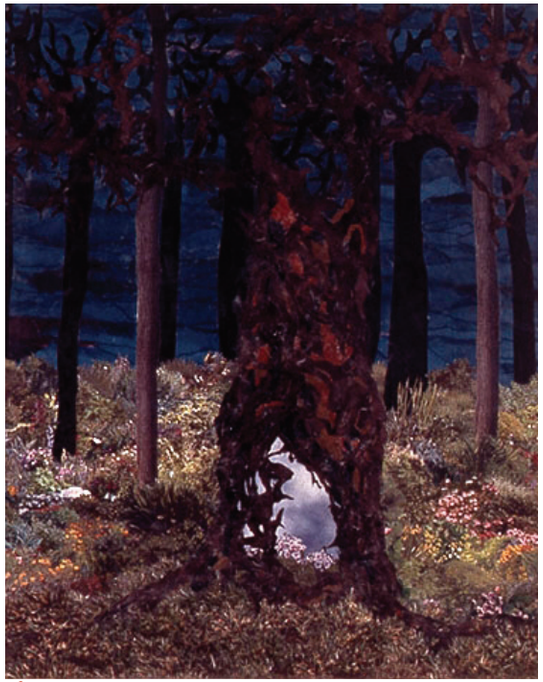
Michael Long
1 *Blessed Water,* 2005
Edition 1/3
2 *Forest Breath,* 2005
Edition 1/3
3 *Granite,* 2005
Edition 1/3
4 *Rock of Ages,* 2005
Edition 1/3
5 *Time is, is Not,* 2005
Edition 1/3
Photographs



Nancy Lovendahl
1 *Greenwich Mean Time*, 2005
Cast paper, stainless steel
and mixed media
2 *The Quadrants*, 2004
Ceramic, stainless steel
and mixed media

Nancy Lovendahl
3 *Ayajwasca*, 2002
Ceramic, rope, rubber
and mixed media

1



2

Roxene Rockwell
1 *Spring*, 2004
2 *Introspect*, 2003
3 *Egg*, 2000
Collages on wood

3

Allison Schulnik
1 *Niagara Falls #1*, 2004
2 *Niagara Falls #3*, 2004
Acrylic on canvas

2

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3

Susan Plum
1 *Breath Nebula*
2 *Heart Nebula*
3 *Eye Nebula*
Glass

AlfredoArreguin
Cosmic Flamingoes, 2005
Oil on canvas

Connie Arismendi
Sevilla, 2002
Acrylic on panel,
pencil on mylar

Works not pictured

Raymond Gehman
Maya Mountains, Belize
Chromira print

Stephen Alvarez
Cay Caulker, Belize
Chromira print

Stephen Alvarez
Hand Print Cave,
Roaring Creek Valley, Belize
Chromira print

Nicole Duplaix
Turneffe Atoll, Belize
Chromira print

Stephen Alvarez
Lamanai Archeological Reserve, Belize
Chromira print

Ed George
Silk Cay, Belize
Chromira print

Nicole Duplaix
Turneffe Atoll, Belize
Chromira print

Kenneth Garrett
Untitled
Chromira print

Stephen Alvarez
Caracol, Belize
Chromira print

Raymond Gehman
Maya Mountains, Belize
Chromira print

Nancy Lovendahl
After Rumi, 2001
Ceramic, rope and mixed media

Roxene Rockwell
Apples, 1999
Collage on wood

Alfredo Arreguin
Cosmic Flamingoes, 2005
Oil on canvas

Connie Arismendi
Bishounen (Beautiful Boy), 2002
Acrylic on panel, pencil on mylar

Connie Arismendi
Sevilla, 2002
Acrylic on panel, pencil on mylar

Allison Schulnik
Niagara Falls #2, 2004
Acrylic on canvas

ART IN EMBASSIES

Cover: Connie Arismendi
Acrylic on panel, pencil on mylar
Bishounen (Beautiful Boy), 2002