



Embassy of the United States of America

Jakarta, Indonesia

September 21, 2001

Ms. Pacita Abad
C/o Tuan Sing Holdings Limited
30 Robinson Road
#12-01 Robinson Towers
Singapore 048546

Dear Ms. Abad:

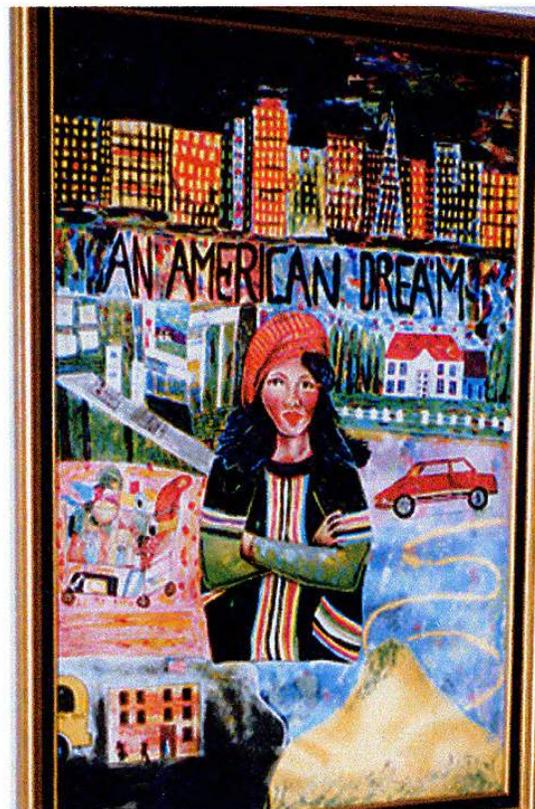
On behalf of the Embassy of the United States of America, Alene and I wish to thank you for your contribution to the State Department's Arts in Embassy Program at the Ambassador's residence in Jakarta. Your work represents the best of American artistry and creativity. Indeed, it represents America's cherished freedom of expression, American diversity and the American people themselves. In addition, your work truly complements the residence's colonial Dutch architecture and Indonesian influences. The many high-level Indonesian and American government officials, business professionals, cultural leaders, academics and others from the international community who have attended representational events at the residence have all admired your work.

If My Friends Could See Me Now is displayed in the living room, where all of our receptions are held. The painting's vibrant colors, energy and thought-provoking theme make a lasting impression on all who see it. Attached, please find a photograph of *If My Friends Could See Me Now* as it is displayed in the residence.

Again, we thank you most sincerely for sharing your work and your artistry with us the past two years. I wish you all the best as your career continues to flourish.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Gelbard
Ambassador



ART

IN EMBASSIES
PROGRAM

40th ANNIVERSARY

3M | A New Leaf Gallery, Sculpturesite | A.E. "Bean" Backus Gallery & Museum | A/D Gallery | David Aaron | Joan Aaronson | Pacita Abad | Berenice Abbott | Emily Abbott | Douglas Abdell | Tony Abeyta | Gallery Christian Abrahamsen | Morris B. Abram | Ronald P. Abramson | Ben Abril | AC Project Room | ACA Galleries | Ace Gallery | Katherine Ace | Zoa Ace | Keith Achepohl | Alice Stanley Acheson | Peter Acheson | William Troy Acker | William Adair | Adair Margo Gallery | Ansel Adams | B.J. Adams | Cassilly Adams | Charles Partridge Adams | Christine Adams | Kenneth Miller Adams | Kevin H. Adams | Mark Adams | Pat Adams | Victoria Adams | Willis Seaver Adams | Neil Adamson | Antonio Addari | Addison Ripley Fine Art | Juanita Perez Adelman | Adelson Galleries | Minnie Adkins | Admit One Gallery | George G. Adomeit | Jeff Aeling | John Ahearn | Michael Ahearn | Mary Ahern | Dongkuk C. Ahn | Young-II Ahn | Eric Aho | Gayleen Aiken | Mark O. Aiston | Abe Ajay | Betty Ajay | Estelle Akamine | Ann Aker | Lee Aks | Benny Alba | Grace Albee | P. Frederick Albee | Anni Albers | Josef Albers | Josef and Anni Albers Foundation | Ernest Albert Jr. | Cynthia A. Alberto | E. Dewey Albinson | Albright-Knox Art Gallery | Lita Albuquerque | The Albuquerque Museum | L. Alcopley | Janet Alcorn and Paul Ferrone | Murray Alcosser | Aldo Castillo Gallery | Larry Aldrich | Alex Gallery | Alexander and Bonin | Bette Alexander | Bill Alexander | John E. Alexander | Kitt Alexander Lamar | Alexander | Leslie Alexander | Peter Alexander | Steven Alexander | Stoller Alexander | Jean M. Alfonso | Josephine Alfonso | Carlos Alfonzo | Karen Algren | Pierre-Michel Alix | Allan Stone Gallery | William Allan | Denise Allen | Heather Allen | Joy Allen | Junius Allen | Kate Allen | Lewis Allen | Lisa C. Allen | Page Allen | Kate Allen-Roberts | Carlos Almaraz | Carolyn Alper | Barbara Olin Alpert | Adele Alsop | Charles Alston | Marlene Alt | Mathias J. Alten | Tony Altermann | Harold Altman | Helen Altman | Candida Alvarez | Mabel Alvarez | Melanie Alvarez | Vahan Amadouni | Amalia Amaki | Helmut Amann | Emilio Ambasz | Ralph J. Amdursky | American Academy of Arts and Letters | American Folk Art Museum | American Legacy Gallery | American Museum of Natural History | American Needlepoint Guild | American University | Ameringer/Howard | Marcus Amerman | Joseph Alexander Ames | Peter Amft | Janai Ami | JoAnn Amidon | Grimanesa Amoros | Emma Amos | Sihh Ja An | Rhea Anastas | Barbara C. Anderson | Betsy Anderson | Darrell Anderson | David P. Anderson | Dennis Anderson | Desaix Anderson | Anderson Gallery | Heather Anderson | Hugo Anderson | Karl Anderson | M.C. Anderson | Mary Betts Anderson | Ruth A. Anderson | Ruth B. Anderson | Tim Anderson | Zanna Anderson | Joseph Ando | Bruno Andrade | Andre Emmerich Gallery | Andrea Marquit Fine Arts | Andrea Rosen Gallery | Benny Andrews | George Andrews | Karen J. Andrews | Leonard E. B. Andrews | Mark Andrews | The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. | Annheuser-Busch Company | Pamela Tatiana Anikeeff | Ann Nathan Gallery | Kim Anno | Tom Ansley | Sharon Antholt | Dan Anthony | Elaine Anthony | James Anthony | Miroslav Antic | Cara Antoine | Anton Gallery | Stephen Antonakos | Joe Antone | John D. Antone | Jacobsen Antonio | Garo Antreasian | Richard Anuszkiewicz | William Anzalone | Eloisa Apachito | Polly Apfelbaum | Jean E. Appgar | James Aponovich | Ida Applebroog | Anne Appleby | Kenneth Aptekar | Gwendolyn Aquí | Cissy Aragon | Lucy Arai | Jose Moises Arana | Placido Arango | Darryl and Karen Arawjo | Victor Arbogast | Diane Arbus | James Archambeault | Herbert J. Archer | Alexander Archipenko | Arden Gallery | Lorraine Arden | Dick Arentz | Philip Argent | John S. Arhorn | Connie Arismendi | Arkansas State University, Jonesboro Campus | Paul Arlt Arman | Lara Armond | Anneli Arms | Thomas C. Arms | Arthur Armstrong | David Armstrong | John Armstrong | Sara Garden Armstrong | W.W. Armstrong | Thomas Frederick Arndt | Wilhelm Karl Ferdinand Arnesen | Robert Gordon Arneson | Wendell H. Arneson | Toni Arnett | William Arnett | Eddie Arning | Michael and Anne Arnold | Wood Arnold | Charles Arnoldi | Natalie Arnoldi | Ryland Arnoldi | Bill Aron | Frances Aronson | Howard A. Aronson | Alfredo Arreguin | Art Dialogue Gallery | Art Institute of Chicago | Art Students League of New York | J.C. Arter | Artes Magnus | Artists of the Quilters of Virginia | Arts for the

Parks | Richard Artschwager | Marilyn Ashbrook | Asheville Art Museum | K Atkyns Jr. | Atlanta History Center | Attic Gallery | Dotty Attie | John Atwater Audubon | Lillian August | Augustana College Museum of Art | Susan Austad Autio | Edward Avedisian | March Avery | Milton Avery | Sally Michel Avery | Judith S. Ayre | Luis Cruz Azaceta | Mussarrat Aziz | Babcock Galleries | M Bach | Del-Bourree Bach | Laurence Bach | Cynthia Back | Jay Backstra | Bahnmptewa | Irma Bailey | Tuuli Bailey | William Bailey | Xenobia Bailey | Jerrald C. Balance | Julester Balch | Gerald Balciar | Anni Von Westrum Bal Hew E.O. Balfour | Vartkess and Rita Balian | Carol Pursell Baliles | Carol Lo Ballinglen Arts Foundation | Andrea Baltzell | Jan Baltzell | Camille Bambois of America Corporation | Bannerworks | Edward Mitchell Bannister | Bryan Barber | Lucy Barber | Sam Barber | Ann Barbieri | Ron Barboza | Sandra K. Barkin | Ruth Barkley | Bob Barlow | Myron G. Barlow | William Barnes | W Soldwedel Barrett | Mary Barron | William Barron | Matt Barros | Mark Barr Norwood Bartle | Dana Bartlett | Jennifer Losch Bartlett | Linda Bartlett | Bartos | Armand Bartos Jr. | Joseph Bartscherer | Lynn Basa | Leonard Bass Bassett | Jim Bassler | Mimi Basterrechea | Linda Bastian | Hugo Bastidas | G Batu | Elizabeth Bauer | Clark Baughan | Walter E. Baum | Leila Bauman | Baynard | David Baze | William Baziotes | Beach Museum of Art, Kansas Se Beal | Troy Beamon | Bennett Bean | Paul Bean | Robert Beard | Romare Be Bechtle | Doreen Beck & Dink Siegel | Charles Beck | Margit Beck | August Bedford | Jill Bedgood | José Bedia | Nannette Bedway | Gary Brent Beecha Begay | Pauline Begay | Theresa Begay | Nancy Belfer | William Belknap Jr. | Leland Bell | Bellas Artes | George Bellows | Belmont, The Gari Melchers Herbert Ben Sr. | Howard Ben Tre | Lawrence Benedict | Gerrit Beneker | Lyn Sue Benner | Mark Bennett | William J. Bensinger | Frank Weston Benson | J Benton | Wayne Benton | Nora Beraja | Dicran Berberian | Ed Bereal | Ronald Berg | Eleanor Berger | Sheila Berger | Richard Berglund | Henrietta Berk | Philip I. Berman | Debra Bermingham | Lynn Bernasconi | Bernice Steinbau | Stuart and Wilma Bernstein | Bernhard Berntsen | William Berra | Arlene Berta Walker Gallery | Johann Berthelsen | Jake Berthot | Val Bertola | Step Cindy Betka | J. Betts | Louis Betts | Elisabeth Beyene | Nancy Bibler | Cynth Albert Bierstadt | Dan Big Bee | Isabel Bigelow | Edward Biggar | John B Bingham | John Caleb Bingham | Pamela Biolley | Karin Birch | Thomas Birch Gallery | Birmingham Museum of Art | Adelle Bischoff | Elmer Bischoff | Sh Biss | Edward Biteman | Betty Bitsui | Bill Black | David Black | Black Enter Harriet Blackstone | Bruce Blackwell | Dorothy Patton Blackwell | Tarleton E Buckeye Blake | Carol Blake | Kara Blake | Leo B. Blake | Terry Blake | Ralph | Theodoro Ramos Blanco | Martin Blank | Blanton Museum of Art, Univers Betty Blayton | Ross Bleckner | Joyce Blegen | M. Bleiman | Katherine Alice Jeffrey Blondes | Julia Bloom | Blue Spiral 1 | Oscar Bluemner | Rebecca Blu Serena Bocchino | William Sauts Netamux'we Bock | Karl Bodmer | Sandor | Varujan Boghosian | Joseph Stephen Bohler | Max Bohm | Ada Bohonis | A Ilya Bolotowsky | Carole Bolsey | Gary Bolyer | Bomani Gallery | Pauline B Niki Bonnett | Bonni Benrubi Gallery, Inc. | Cal Bonnavier | Lydia Bontraeger | Power Boothe | Edward Borein | James Boren | James Boren | Naomi Bore Borowsky | Evelyn C. Borst | Richard Boschulte | Boston Museum of Fine Leslie Bottorff | Paul Bouchard | Richard Boucher | Elias Boudinot | Bouga Boussard | George Boutwell | Priscilla Bowden | Sandra Bowden | Betsy Bo Robert Bowling | Katherine Bowling | McLean Bowman | William Bowman Boyle | Keith Boyle | Lee Boynton | Prilla Brackett | Blair Bradfield | William Bramhall | Joanne Segal Brandford | Warren Brandt | Brandywine River Mus | Jan Brashears | Meryl Brater | Dorothy Braudy | Maurice Braun | Brad Brau Breger | Anne Bremer | Bettina Brendel | Hannah Brenken | Marcella Brenne | Sidney Bressler | Dorothy Brett | Henry Breuer | Brevard Museum of Arts an Fine Art | William Brice | Alfred Thompson Bricher | Allan Bridge | Bruce B Stephen Brigidi | Allen Brill | Charles R. Brindley | Jack O. Brittain | Jeffrey | Judith Brody | Myron Brody | Sharon Broit | M. Bromberg | F. C. Bromley | Gardens | Harry A. Brooks | James Brooks | Romaine Brooks | Lynne Brooks-B Brown | Christopher Brown | Deborah Brown | Frank Brown | Frederick J. Bro

The ART in Embassies Program:

The American Tradition of Cultural Diplomacy

Andrew Solomon

For forty years, the ART in Embassies Program of the Department of State has ensured that visitors to United States ambassadors' residences encounter artwork of the first order. Among all the government's arts programs, this one has been undisturbed by shifting fashions in sponsorship; it has grown steadily since its inception. The program places some 3,500 works by 3,000 artists in about 180 ambassadors' residences, borrowing from a base of more than 8,000 current and past lenders and deploying a small collection owned by the Department of State. What began as a scheme of high-minded decoration has become an integral part of our diplomatic process. The presence of American art not only beautifies the residences and gives the public spaces of the ambassadors' homes an aura of seriousness, but also indicates America's immense creative scope. To communicate simultaneously in the languages of diplomacy and art is to speak with a clarity and depth that neither mode could achieve on its own. At a time when the United States must argue its case with allies and opponents, the universal language of artists helps to bridge gaps in understanding as no treaty or aid package can. The display of American art helps others to understand us. Much diplomatic conversation must be confidential, but the use of art is a vivid form of public diplomacy. The ART in Embassies Program places art where much of our government's foreign negotiation unfolds, and where world leaders are regularly invited to consider the quality of their relations with the United States. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said, "Each work of art becomes a diplomatic instrument, each artist an ambassador. It is an outstanding program."

The program encompasses almost all U.S. diplomatic missions overseas. Though the residences and chanceries are often most spectacular in countries with which we have a tradition of close economic and political affiliation, the art can be more stimulating and surprising for residents of countries that are geographically and spiritually farther from the United States, who are less likely to encounter our cultural production in public forums in their own cities. The exhibitions benefit not only visitors who come on business of state, but also the men and women of influence, political refugees, and friends and associates of Foreign Service members who pass through the residences.

The understanding that art influences international relations goes back to ancient history, manifest in the Romans' installation of statuary and architecture in cities throughout the empire. A new deliberateness about culture and nationalism came into being in the nineteenth century, when countries, especially those involved in colonial activities, began asserting the superiority of their own traditions. The conscious, proud American-ness of American art remained largely undeclared until the 1860s. Then all at once the United States came to see the glory of its art, to believe that this nation, which excelled in so many kinds of activity, was able fully to match and sometimes exceed the cultural accomplishments of other nations: "... if Shakespeare has not been equaled, he is sure to be surpassed, and surpassed by an American born now or yet to be born," wrote Herman Melville in his exuberant essay "Hawthorne and His Mosses." America's was a new genius, unlike any other. "Call [a true American artist] an American, and have done," Melville continues, "for you cannot say a nobler thing of him." Melville proposes that art reflects its nationality when it is most itself. American art need not portray America; by its very existence, it describes America. Melville's theme was given even more magnificent sweep by Walt Whitman in his 1855 preface to *Leaves of Grass*. "The Americans of all nations at any time upon the earth have probably the fullest poetical nature," Whitman wrote. "Their Presidents shall not be their common referee so much as their poets shall... The proof of a poet is that his country absorbs him as affectionately as he has absorbed it." So the artists of the United States strive to understand their country, and, in doing so, give new meaning to that country. The greatest artists do not simply speak of America; they also create it.



PACITA ABAD

Pacita Abad (1946-2004) was born in Basco, Batanes, a small island in the northernmost part of the Philippines, between Luzon and Taiwan. Her more-than-thirty-year painting career began when she journeyed to the United States to undertake graduate studies. After that trip, Pacita never stopped traveling or painting. She studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C. and The Art Students League in New York City, and then started to “paint the globe”, living on 5 different continents and working in more than 80 countries.

Pacita's extensive travels to exotic destinations like Guatemala, Mexico, India, Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and Indonesia had a major impact on her life and art, and were the inspiration for many ideas, techniques and materials in her paintings.

Pacita's painting is characterized by constant change, experimentation and development from the 1970's, right up until her passing. Her early paintings were primarily figurative socio-political works of people and primitive masks. Another series was large scale paintings of underwater scenes, tropical flowers and animal wildlife.

Pacita's most extensive body of work, however, is her vibrantly, colorful abstract work – many very large scale canvases, but also a number of small collages – on a complete range of materials from canvas and paper to bark cloth, metal, ceramics and glass. A disciplined and prolific painter, Pacita created over 3,500 artworks and even painted a 55-meter long bridge in Singapore and covered it with 2,350 multicolored circles.

Pacita constantly experimented with ideas

that moved her beyond the confines of the traditional two-dimensional surface by developing trapunto painting, a technique of stitching and stuffing her painted canvases to give them a three-dimensional sculptural effect. She then began an almost magical process of transforming the surface of her paintings with materials, such as traditional cloth, mirrors, beads, shells, plastic buttons and other objects, which she synthesized with bold colors to create uniquely individualistic pieces of art. Underlying all of Pacita's work is a vivacious spirit, vibrant originality and a volcano of color. Her works are all about life and pursuing dreams, they are full of purpose, nothing tentative, and they are drawn from her personal experiences. Like the artist's life, Pacita's paintings are a celebration of pure passion, joy and color that come straight from her heart.

A truly global artist, Pacita had over 40 solo exhibitions at museums and galleries in the U.S., Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America. She also participated in more than 50 group and traveling exhibitions throughout the world. Pacita's work is now in public, corporate

and private art collections
in over 70 countries.

Read More

Website

<http://www.pacitaabad.com/>



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