

# US Embassy supports Artist Exchange

The Embassy of the United States of America will be hosting an Art in Embassies cultural exchange in Botswana from October 19 - 27, 2015. The programme will provide a platform to value the work of visual artists in Botswana and the U.S. and expand networking opportunities between Botswana and American artists.

In collaboration with Thapong Visual Arts Centre, from October 20 - 22, three American visual artists will offer collaborative workshops with Botswana artists to share techniques and help them develop career-building skills as professional artists. Workshops will be given in painting, sculpture and printmaking, and also offer artists marketing and networking expertise. The American artists will also hold a public lecture at Thapong Visual Arts Centre on October 19.

In collaboration with the Maun-based civil society organization Poetavango, the three visiting artists will also conduct educational programs and work with artists at the Maun International Arts Festival from October 24 - 27, 2015. During the Festival, the U.S. artists will hold visual arts workshops and produce works of art alongside Botswana artists in Ngamiland; of particular note, the American artists will help complete the second phase of the mural on the Maun Public Library.

The U.S. State Department's Office of Art in Embassies (AIE) promotes cross-cultural dialogue and understanding through the visual arts by curating permanent collections, temporary exhibitions, and cultural outreach programs at U.S. diplomatic facilities around the world. Since its establishment in 1963, AIE has worked in 171 different



countries with over 20,000 participants including artists, museums, galleries, universities, and private collectors. Over the past decade, AIE has provided artists the opportunity to travel abroad on more than 200 cultural exchanges. Conducting events at area schools, universities, and arts institutions while often collaborating with local communities to make site-specific works of art, AIE exchange participants help bring art to life through the power of shared experience. For more information about Art in Embassies please visit: <http://art.state.gov>

**About the Visiting Artists**  
**Peter Clouse**

Michigan artist Peter Clouse works with electronic wires to create large weavings. He recently obtained a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan where he was in the Fiber Department. His work deals with waste, technology, mapping, consumption, life, equality, identity, sustainability, strength, identity and power. Clouse is deeply committed to process and repetitive actions - this is why weaving is such a strong part of his work. He currently lives and works in the Metro Detroit area and is active in several exhibitions that span the United States.

## Jacquelyn Gleisner

Jacquelyn Gleisner was born in Buffalo, New York, and studied fine art and art history at Boston University, where she was classically trained in foundational drawing, painting and sculpture. Jacquelyn also studied abroad at the Scuola Internazionale de Grafica in Venice, Italy. Jacquelyn continued her investigation of pattern-based abstraction at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She received an MFA from the painting department in 2010. The same year she was awarded a Fulbright Grant and a position as a Visiting Researcher at Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland. In addition to her studio practice and teaching, Jacquelyn writes about contemporary art, and is a regular contributor to Art21's online magazine since 2011. Jacquelyn currently teaches at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and Framingham State University.

## Jill Galarneau

Jill Galarneau was raised in Phoenix, Arizona, and received her Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in printmaking from Rhode Island School of Design and her MFA in painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Jill's primary materials are paper and paint, which she uses to build both collages and installations. Inspired by the languages of abstraction in painting, quilting, and lacemaking, Jill's work develops her own personal language to express memory, and sensation. Her work has been included in shows at Cighthouse Funeral, Butter Projects, Phillips de Pury, and W/ space among others. She has participated in residencies at Virginia Commonwealth University, Ora Lerman Trust, and Vermont Studio Centre.