



## National Gallery of Art Panel - The Role of Art in Diplomacy

In the spirit of the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies *Leonore and Walter Annenberg Award for Diplomacy through the Arts*, the National Gallery of Art will host a symposium on “The Role of Art in Diplomacy” at 11:00 am on Friday, May 20. The panel will discuss FAPE’s landmark project at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City. FAPE contributed the art collection for this important post, including three site-specific installations, and more than 200 works by more than 50 American artists. The discussion will be moderated by Harry Cooper, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at the Gallery, and will include Robert Storr, Curator of the USUN Collection, Chairman of FAPE’s Professional Fine Arts Committee and Dean of the Yale School of Art, as well as artists Odili Donald Odita, Joel Shapiro and Carrie Mae Weems.

Held in the East Building Large Auditorium, the program is coordinated with the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies, and the event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit

<http://www.nga.gov/programs/lectures>.



Left to right: Ron Gorchov, *Totem*; Sol LeWitt, *Wall Drawing #832: A red spiral line on blue*; Lynda Benglis, *D'Arrest*



## FAPE Donates American Art Collection for the new U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City



Left to right: Ron Gorchov, *Totem*; Sol LeWitt, *Wall Drawing #832: A red spiral line on blue*; Lynda Benglis, *D'Arrest*

**New York, NY March 30, 2011** – The Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE), the leading non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the United States image abroad through American art, has collaborated with the U.S. Department of State and more than 50 of the country's leading artists to contribute a historic collection of American art to the new U.S. Mission to the United Nations (USUN) in New York City. The building, which is responsible for carrying out the nation's participation in the world body, was designed by the late acclaimed architect Charles Gwathmey of **Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects**.

In 2007, the State Department approached FAPE about contributing art for the USUN Collection. Robert Storr, Chairman of FAPE's Professional Fine Arts Committee and Dean of the Yale School of Art, was the Curator. FAPE and Storr worked closely with the Department and Gwathmey Siegel to select locations for art, identifying more than 180 spaces throughout 19 floors for art.

Susan Rice, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations said, "For 25 years, FAPE has worked with the U.S. Department of State to place American art in embassies around the world, representing the very best of American vision, dynamism, and culture."

FAPE's first site-specific contribution to USUN was *Wall Drawing #832: A red spiral line on blue* by Sol LeWitt. The work has been installed inside the 70-foot-high rotunda located on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor representational space.



U.S. Mission to the United Nations, New York



Odili Donald Odita, *Light and Vision*, 2010  
159 7/8" x 310' 10 5/8" (lobby), Acrylic latex wall paint on wall

contribution to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. We are extremely grateful to the State Department for giving us the opportunity to participate in this landmark project, and to Robert Storr for curating an extraordinary collection, which captures the diversity and richness of our country's unique culture."

More than 50 artists are represented in the Collection, and their work appears throughout the building, including: Josef Albers; Joe Andoe; Shahla Arbabi; Richard Artschwager; Jennifer Bartlett; Romare Bearden; Louisiana Bendolph; Mary Lee Bendolph; Lynda Benglis; Loretta Bennett; Christo; Chuck Close; Willie Cole; Robert Dash; Tom Downing; David Driskell; Richard Dupont; William Eggleston; Janet Fish; Tom Fitzharris; Ron Gorchov; Peter Halley; Jim Isermann; Yvonne Jacquette; Jasper Johns; Emilia and Ilya Kabakov; Alex Katz; Ellsworth Kelly; André Kertész; Polly Kraft; Barbara Kruger; Rachel Lachowicz; Jacob Lawrence; Michael Lebron; Julian Lethbridge; Tom Levine; Sol LeWitt; Roy Lichtenstein; Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle; Robert Mangold; Elizabeth Murray; Ken Noland; Odili Donald Odita; Catherine Opie; Loretta Pettway; Ellen Phelan; Martin Puryear; Robert Rauschenberg; Tim Rollins; James Rosenquist; Clifford Ross; Susan Rothenberg; Ed Ruscha; Joel Shapiro; Jack Shear; Laurie Simmons; Kiki Smith; Alan Sonfist; Frank Stella; Fred Tomaselli; Cy Twombly; Carrie Mae Weems; Terry Winters; and Jack Youngerman.

### About the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies

The Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the United States image abroad through American art. Founded as a public-private, non-partisan partnership in 1986, FAPE works with the U.S. Department of State to contribute fine art to U.S. embassies around the world. FAPE's donations include works by more than 200 preeminent American artists placed in over 140 countries. Headquartered in Washington D.C., FAPE has raised over \$56 million in art and monetary contributions to date. For more information, please visit [www.fapeglobal.org](http://www.fapeglobal.org).

On this same floor, stands FAPE's second site-specific commission, a sculpture by Ron Gorchov entitled *Totem*. Lynda Benglis also generously contributed a sculpture from her collection entitled *D'Arrest*, which has been installed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor as well. The third site-specific piece in the Collection is by Odili Donald Odita, who has completed two murals entitled *Light and Vision*.

These works greet visitors in the lobby and on the second floor before entering the Press Conference Room. All of the site-specific commissions are gifts of the artists, and FAPE funded the fabrication and installation for each work.

Jo Carole Lauder, FAPE Chairman, said, "FAPE is proud to have collaborated with such accomplished artists for this historic



Odili Donald Odita, *Light and Vision*, 2010, 110 1/4" x 234 1/4" (second floor), acrylic latex wall paint on wall



## HARRY COOPER

Harry Cooper is curator and head of modern and contemporary art at the National Gallery of Art, Washington. Since joining the Gallery in February 2008, he has organized *The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection: Selected Works* and initiated a series of focus exhibitions in the Tower Gallery of the East Building on such artists as Philip Guston, Mark Rothko, and Nam June Paik.

Before joining the Gallery in February 2008, Cooper served for ten years as the curator of modern art at the Harvard University Art Museums. There he organized a dozen exhibitions, including *Frank Stella 1958* (2006), *Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions* (2003), and *Mondrian: The Transatlantic Paintings* (2001). Cooper lectured in Harvard's art history department on a wide variety of topics, from Paul Cézanne to abstract expressionism. He has also taught at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and Columbia University, New York,

Image courtesy of  
National Gallery of Art,  
Washington

A native of Bethesda, Maryland, Cooper began his career as a researcher at the Wilson Quarterly of the Smithsonian Institution. From 1985 to 1990 he taught adolescents with learning disabilities in the Washington, DC, region. From 1993 to 1995 Cooper worked as an exhibition specialist on the *Piet Mondrian* retrospective at the National Gallery of Art. He has published numerous articles as well as book reviews and criticism. His most recent essay, "Braque's Ovals," appears in the catalogue of the Cubism exhibition opening this month at the Kimbell Art Museum.

Cooper received a PhD in 1997 from Harvard University, an MA in 1992 from Johns Hopkins University, and an AB in American history and literature in 1981 from Harvard University. Cooper also holds a certificate in drawing and painting from the Corcoran Museum School of Art, Washington, DC.



## ROBERT STORR

Robert Storr is dean of the Yale School of Art and Consulting Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. His career spans both practice and theory. Storr graduated from Swarthmore with high honors in French and history in 1972. He went on to study painting at the Boston Museum School and Harvard University, ultimately receiving an M.F.A. in Art from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1978. He began as a painter and exhibited his work in some of New York's finest galleries.

Mr. Storr was curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, from 1990 to 2002, where he organized exhibitions on Elizabeth Murray, Gerhard Richter, Max Beckmann, Tony Smith, and Robert Ryman, in addition to coordinating the Projects series from 1990 to 2000. In 2002 he was named the first Rosalie Solow Professor of Modern Art at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Mr. Storr has also taught at the CUNY graduate center and the Bard Center for Curatorial Studies as well as the Rhode Island School of Design, Tyler School of Art, New York Studio School, and Harvard University, and has been a frequent lecturer in this country and abroad. He has been a contributing editor at *Art in America* since 1981 and writes frequently for *Artforum*, *Parkett*, *Art Press* (Paris), and *Frieze* (London). He has written numerous catalogs, articles, and books, including *Philip Guston* (Abbeville, 1986), *Chuck Close* (with Lisa Lyons, Rizzoli, 1987), and the forthcoming *Intimate Geometries: The Work and Life of Louise Bourgeois*.

Among his many honors he has received a Penny McCall Foundation Grant for painting, a Norton Family Foundation Curator Grant, and honorary doctorates from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Maine College of Art, as well as awards from the American Chapter of the International Association of Art Critics, a special AICA award for Distinguished Contribution to the Field of Art Criticism, an ICI Agnes Gund Curatorial Award, and the Lawrence A. Fleischman Award for Scholarly Excellence in the Field of American Art History from the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art. In 2000 the French Ministry of Culture presented him with the medal of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. He was named commissioner of the Venice Biennale exhibition in 2007, the first American invited to direct this most prestigious exposition of international contemporary art.



## **ODILI DONALD ODITA**

Odili Donald Odita was born in 1966 in Enugu, Nigeria. He received his B.F.A. (with distinction) from Ohio State University, where he also received the Excellence in the Arts Award, and his M.F.A. from Bennington College in Vermont. Odita has held an International Artist Residency at ART/OMI and a Reithalle Artist Residency in Switzerland.

His work has been exhibited extensively in international solo and group exhibitions including the 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale, the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, the Matrix Art Project, Brussels, Velan Center for Contemporary Art, Torino, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco. Odita's work is in numerous public and private collections including The Studio Museum in Harlem, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Odita has been the recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Painting and Sculpture and the ArtsLink Collaborative Projects Award in Warsaw, Poland. He will produce large scale wall paintings for ARS11 opening April 2011 at the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland.

Odita currently lives and works in Philadelphia.



## **CARRIE MAE WEEMS**

Considered one of the most influential contemporary American artists, Carrie Mae Weems has investigated yearning, loss, cultural identity, and the visual consequences of power throughout her renowned career. Determined as ever to enter the picture—both literally and metaphorically—Weems has sustained an on-going dialogue within contemporary discourse for more than twenty-five years.

Carrie Mae Weems received her B.A. from the California Institute of the Arts and an M.F.A. from the University of California at San Diego. She studied folklore at the University of California, Berkeley with the late Alan Dundes, and has been an Artist-in-Residence at The Art Institute of Chicago, The Fabric Workshop, and The Rhode Island School of Design.

Weems was awarded the Pollack Krasner Foundation Grant in Photography, the Visual Arts Grant from The National Endowment for the Arts, and is a recipient of the Joseph H. Hazen Rome Prize Fellowship, one of the most prestigious awards in American culture. She also recently received the Skowhegan Medal in Photography and the Anonymous Was a Woman Award.

In 2005, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch called her series, *From Here I Saw What Happened And I Cried*, which was originally commissioned by the J. Paul Getty Museum, "one of the masterpieces of our time." Weems has exhibited extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, and Asia, and has had solo and group shows at The Denver Art Museum, The UCLA Hammer Museum, The High Museum of Art, The International Center for Photography, The Miami Art Museum, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, and The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

She is represented in public and private collections around the world, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Museum of Modern Art, and The Williams College Museum of Art. Her work has also been featured in Dak'Art, the Biennale of Contemporary Art in Senegal, the Johannesburg Biennale in South Africa, and the Whitney Biennial in the United States.

Weems lives and works in New York.



## JOEL SHAPIRO

Joel Shapiro was born in New York City in 1941, and received B.A. and M.A. degrees from New York University. Since his first exhibition in 1970, his work has been the subject of many one-person shows and retrospectives, notably at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, 1980; the Whitney Museum, 1982; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1985; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, jointly with the Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, 1995-6; the American Academy in Rome, 1999; Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 1999; the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2001. In 2005 his sculpture *20 Elements Correspondences*.

Shapiro's work can be found in numerous public collections in the United States and abroad, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., the Tate Gallery, London, and the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. Prominent commissions include the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., the United States Embassy in Ottawa, Canada (FAPE), and the

Communauté de Communes de L'Agglomération Orléanaise in Orléans, France.

In 2010, Paula Cooper Gallery mounted a show of his early sculptural work from the 1970s, and The Pace Gallery had a solo exhibition of his new work. An exhibition of his work is currently on view at the Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany through September 25, 2011. He will install a commission for FAPE at the Consulate General of the United States in Guangzhou, China in 2012.

Among other distinctions, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1998 and the French Ministry of Culture presented him with the medal of Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2005.

Joel Shapiro lives and works in New York City.