

Address by Consul General Rolf Schütte
at the opening of an art exhibition
of the group “German American Artists”
in the German Residence in San Francisco
November 2, 2006

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends of the Consulate,
Friends of the Arts,**

**My colleague, Mr. Karsten Tietz, the new Consul for Cultural Affairs, and I
extend a very warm welcome to all of you here tonight.**

**We host many different events - receptions, concerts, speeches, presentations,
seminars and others – here at the German Residence in San Francisco. But
never before have I been able to welcome my guests to an evening like this.
Tonight it is my pleasure to welcome you to a special “treat”. Not a single
treat, not a double treat, but a triple treat. This evening is devoted to the arts:
visual arts, musical arts and culinary arts.**

Let me begin with the visual arts:

**I am happy to present to you the group “German American Artists”. It is a
group of German-born, visual artists that now live mainly in California and on
the American West Coast.**

**What they all have in common is their German background and up-bringing.
The group was founded in 2005 by Bay Area artists, Werner Glinka, Inge
Infante and Ines Tancre to promote the work of artists who have a strong
affinity to German culture.**

Now there are 9 members.

**Their professional backgrounds are as diverse as their art, their past work and
their present projects show their passionate involvement and urge for
creativity.**

Let me now introduce the artists to you (in alphabetical order):

Werner Glinka- lives and works in Woodside, CA:

His home was Gelsenkirchen , a town in Germany’s most prominent industrial areas.. He came to CA in 1981 as a computer specialist., but early on he turned to the arts. Influenced by the simplicity of the “Bauhaus modernism” and Japanese landscapes he developed a unique style of assemblages with a strong presence of color, surface structure and found objects from nature. His enthusiasm, organizational talent and disciplined work leads to success within his manifold voluntary engagements in the art field.

Silke Henkell-Wallace- lives and works in Palo Alto

She investigates the general by focus on the everyday. In her current series of work her paintings reflect core elements of her cultural upbringing and its everyday rituals, primarily those concerning food and its relations to the woods, the fields, the animals and the seasons. Silke Henkel-Wallace has been educated in Germany and in the United States. She made her debut with a first solo show in 2000 and has been exhibiting since. She is represented by two galleries and has completed many commissions. Her work is collected internationally.

Inge Infante – lives and works in Palo Alto

Inge Infante grew up in the Black Forest and came to the States via Rome, Italy, where she studied Italian and art history. Her collages are a blend of her memories, her love for European culture, and the energy of life in California. Inge's work has received many awards and is shown in galleries and museums in the U.S. and in Germany. She enjoys sharing her passion for collage by teaching classes on the Peninsula. Her inspiration is nourished by annual trips to museums and galleries in Germany, Italy and France.

Natasha Juelicher - lives and works in San Francisco

Natasha Jülicher divides her time between San Francisco and Europe. She was raised near the city of Muenster, Germany, in beautiful surroundings. The close relationship to nature is very evident in her work, as is her interest in mythology. Natasha moved to the U.S. at the age of 21 to study sculpture (with Al Farrow) at the Academy of Art in San Francisco and received a BFA in 1996. Since then, she has shown extensively in both Germany and the U.S.

Susanne Kaspar – lives and works in Berkeley, CA

She came to California from Silesia in 1966. She pursued her early interest in photography and has been working as an art and fashion photographer for over 30 years. She has always been attracted by the beauty of nature: the human body, fruits, vegetables and flowers. Her work has been widely published in the US and internationally. She is presented in permanent collections at Princeton and Boise Art Museum.

Bertolt Schmidt lives in Berlin and San Francisco. He is a professional industrial product designer with a diploma from the Düsseldorf Art Academy. He has received numerous German, American and international design awards. In addition to his work as a freelance product designer he has been active in the fields of painting and graphics, mostly including computer-based applications.

Ines Tancre- lives and works in Hillsborough, CA.

After finishing her studies in Germany she became a “nomad” traveling the world with her diplomat husband. Her impressions and reflections are pictured by the mixed- media images based on photography as well as by more abstract work that cannot deny her background in philosophy and linguistics . Her core themes like duality and perception get a different connotation with changing environment and influences. She has been exhibiting in Europe and California.

Julian Voss Andrea –lives and works in Portland, OR:

He has started out as an observational painter in his youth: He was so intrigued by the natural sciences and its philosophical implications, that he studied physics at European universities, quantum physics and philosophy. After finishing his degree in physics, he moved to the United States to study art: “It is important for me to create a variety of work that ranges from almost exclusively intellectual to entirely intuitive, in order to generate a cross-inspiration between both approaches.”

Christine Peirano, another member of the group, is missing today. She is on an extensive leave in Germany.

A lot more could be told about the artists present here tonight and about their work. But you will have the chance to meet the artists in person later tonight and let their artwork talk to you. Furthermore, you may find useful information about the artists on the group's webpage:

www.germanamericanartists.com

But we have as our guests tonight not only artists with a German connection in the field of visual arts, but also artists in the field of music. My colleague, Karsten Tietz, will now introduce the "Karlsruher Konzert Duo" to you.

Thank you for your attention.