

# PPHM

PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

ART • HISTORY • ARCHEOLOGY • PALEONTOLOGY • PETROLEUM • TEXTILES • ARCHIVES

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## Paintings from PPHM at NATO Ambassador's Residence

A painting from the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is the first thing visitors to Truman Hall, the residence of the United States Ambassador to NATO, see when they walk in the door.



*Prickly Pear*, by Dawson Dawson-Watson

*Prickly Pear*, by Dawson Dawson-Watson and three other pieces of art from the PPHM collection were recently sent to Belgium at the request of Kay Baily Hutchison, former congresswoman and senator, and now the 22<sup>nd</sup> United States Permanent Representative to NATO.

Other pieces requested by Hutchison include Harold Dow Bugbee's *Moving the Wagon*, L.O. Griffith's *Cows in the Milkweed*, and *Verbena (Morning)* by Jose Arpa y Perea.

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Michael R. Grauer, associate director for curatorial affairs, curator of art and western heritage and instructor of art history at West Texas A&M University, was on hand at Truman Hall, at the behest of Ambassador Hutchison, to discuss the paintings with her fellow ambassadors.



Michael Grauer and Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison pose in front of *Prickly Pear*, by Dawson Dawson-Watson. Photos courtesy of Office of the Public Affairs Advisor, US Mission to NATO

“I wore my Texas flag tie and cowboy boots – Tony Lamas – and people practically lined up to take pictures with me,” Grauer said. “Texas holds a special place in the European imagination. There was a real receptivity to art and culture from our part of the world.”

“I am proud I could bring a little bit of Texas to Brussels and introduce our European allies and friends to the beauty of Texas and America,” the Ambassador said. “This State

Department's Art in Embassies program has gained accolades for sharing American culture and art throughout the world.”

PPHM's contribution to the Truman Hall exhibition is the latest example of a partnership between the museum and Art in Embassies that dates from the administration of President Bill Clinton.

Paintings from PPHM have been displayed in the US Embassy to the Holy See in Rome, as well as embassies in Canada, Sweden, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Botswana and many others,” Grauer said.

Additionally, PPHM loaned Frank Reaugh's *The Approaching Herd* to hang in President George W. Bush's private office in The White House. Ralph A. Blakelock's *Autumn Landscape*, Jasper Cropsey's *The Susquehanna River*, and George Inness's *Autumn Oaks* hung in Secretary of State Colin Powell's office and the office of his successor, Condoleeza Rice.

Pieces from the Dallas Museum of Art, the El Paso Museum of Art and the Witte Museum are also included in the current impressionist exhibit at Truman Hall, which was named in honor of President Harry S. Truman, one of the creators of NATO.