

***NEWS RELEASE***

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For Immediate Release:

**MELCHERS LANDSCAPE TO GRACE WALLS OF AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SWITZERLAND**

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Next month a large landscape painting entitled *In Old Virginia* by American impressionist painter Gari Melchers will be installed in the official residence of the US Ambassador to Switzerland. The painting is owned by the Gari Melchers Home and Studio in Falmouth, Virginia. Earlier this year Don Beyer, former Lt. Governor of Virginia and the US Ambassador-designate, and his wife Megan, requested an example of a pastoral landscape by Melchers for inclusion in an exhibition of Virginia-themed paintings for the Chief of Mission residence in Bern.

The Art in Embassies Program of the United States Department of State worked with the Beyers to organize the display. The AIEP is a global art loan program that exhibits over 3,500 original works of art by U.S. citizens in the public rooms of approximately 180 American diplomatic residences worldwide. These exhibitions, with art loaned from galleries, museums, artists and corporate and private collections, provide international audiences with a sense of the quality, scope and diversity of American art and culture.

AIEP officials contacted the Gari Melchers Home and Studio for assistance. The museum owns the largest collection of Melchers works anywhere and has participated in five other AIEP projects since opening in 1975. A brightly colored autumnal view of a house and cow located just below the artist's hilltop residence in Falmouth was selected to travel to Bern. It was painted around 1918.

The Beyers were delighted with the choice. In an email addressed to Gari Melchers Home and Studio, Mrs. Beyer graciously thanked the museum, elaborating that "As Don and I pack up for this incredible tour of service, it is so nice to know we will have a piece of Virginia's finest art – giving us a great talking point for the rural roots of Virginia. It expresses it so beautifully and the commonalities we have with the Swiss – an agrarian heritage, rolling hills and simple farm values."

Gari Melchers Home and Studio is a 28-acre estate and former residence of the artist Gari Melchers and his wife Corinne. The property, which is operated by the University of Mary Washington, is both a Virginia Historic Landmark and a National Historic Landmark. Located at 224 Washington St. in Falmouth, Va., a quarter mile west of the intersection of U.S. 1 and U.S. 17, it is open daily, except Wednesdays, with an admission charge. The museum also serves as the official Stafford County Visitor Center.

For directions and other information, call (540) 654-1015 or visit the museum website at [www.GariMelchers.org](http://www.GariMelchers.org).

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