

A close-up photograph of a White-tailed Eagle's face, showing its white plumage, yellow eyes, and orange beak. The eagle is looking directly at the camera.

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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

JUNE 2021 // NEWSLETTER



(From Left to Right) Adrián Nador, Laura Russo, Sergio Massa, Jorge Argüello, Pablo Rodríguez Brizuela, (Izq.) y Gustavo Martínez Pandiani.

POSITIVE VISIT OF SERGIO MASSA, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, TO WASHINGTON, DC

The President of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, Sergio Massa, accompanied by Deputy Laura Russo, Chairman of the Argentine-U.S. Parliamentary Friendship Group, paid a working visit to Washington, DC between June 14 and 16.

Sergio Massa and Laura Russo carried out a high-

level, intense and diverse work agenda: they held meetings with representatives of the private sector, senior officials at the State Department and the White House, Representatives and Senators, authorities of the American Jewish Committee, and authorities at Washington DC think tanks.



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the productive visit to the city of Washington, DC, of the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Sergio Massa.

In this edition we also include an article on the meeting between Brigadier Major Xavier Julián Isaac, Chief of the General Staff of the Argentine Air Force with authorities of the Georgia National Guard, the Southern Command and the 12th Wing of the United States Air Force (USAF).

Finally, an article on the Modern and Contemporary Argentine art collection at Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States



A DETAILED AND PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WAS HELD IN SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH BUSINESSPEOPLE, REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN ARGENTINA, AS WELL AS THE CURRENT SITUATION AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE.

Likewise, a detailed and productive dialogue was held in several meetings with businesspeople, regarding investments in Argentina, as well as the current situation and vision for the future, particularly from the perspective of the main US companies that contribute to our country's progress.

With Juan González, Special Assistant to President Biden and Senior Director of the National Security Council for the Western Hemisphere, and Julie Chung, Acting Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the State Department, opinions were exchanged on different topics of the bilateral relationship, including issues related to the challenges posed by the climate crisis and COVID-19, threats to democracy, human rights and security in our hemisphere and throughout the world. These meetings took place just two months after the one held in Buenos Aires when Special Assistant Juan González and Acting Undersecretary Julie Chung visited our country in mid-April.

Throughout three days, Sergio Massa and Laura Russo made several visits to the Capitol, where they met separately with the Chairmen of the Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees, Senator Bob Menéndez and Representative Gregory Meeks, respectively, and with the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on the

Western Hemisphere and International Economic Policy, Representative Albio Sires. As Senator Menéndez said, Mr. Massa discussed issues of bilateral and regional importance with all of them, such as the commitment to defeat COVID-19, post-pandemic recovery and democratic challenges in the region.

Also at the Capitol, Sergio Massa held a meeting with several representatives of the American Jewish Committee's Institute for Latino and Latin American Affairs of the US Congress, during the relaunch of this bipartisan Caucus, which aims to promote collaboration between the Jewish and Latino legislators on domestic and international politics.

Among his many activities, Mr. Massa also delivered a presentation at the Inter-American Dialogue (IAD) on Argentina's political and economic perspectives and met with the President of the IAD, Michael Shifter.

Finally, at the Argentine Embassy, the delegation met with various relevant political and legislative actors and held a conversation with Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy.

Taking into account the visits mentioned above, as well as the visits to Argentina in April by Admiral Craig Faller, Commander of the Southern Command and to the United States in May by Martín Guzmán, Minister of Economy, the working visit by the President of the Chamber of Deputies is another sign of the deep bond between our countries and demonstrates a common desire to continue working together to consolidate a strong work agenda based on our shared values, with a view to addressing issues of mutual interest in a positive and constructive manner.

FURTHERMORE, IT
DEMONSTRATES THE
IMPORTANCE OF
PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY,
SINCE STRENGTHENING THE
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Furthermore, it demonstrates the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, since strengthening the ties between our Legislative Powers is both a key aspect of our bilateral relationship and a central tool for building bridges between our countries.■

STRENGTHENING DEFENSE TIES

Brigadier Major Xavier Julián Isaac, Chief of the General Staff of the Argentine Air Force (FAA), accompanied by part of his General Staff and the Defense and Aeronautical Attaché in the United States, Néstor Guajardo, who recently arrived in Washington, visited the U.S. in early June, and during that time they exchanged experiences with the Georgia National Guard, the Southern Command and the 12th Wing of the United States Air Force (USAF).

First, the Argentine delegation was received by the highest authorities of the Georgia National Guard (Major General Thomas Carden, Major General Thomas Grabowski, and Brigadier General Konata Crumbly) in Savannah and Atlanta, within the framework of the current State Partnership Program.

The following operational capabilities were evaluated there:

- "RED HORSE" equipment for repairing tracks, platforms, taxiways, and facilities in general, whose capabilities could be added to the FAA by transferring experiences.
- Firefighting capability using aerial support, and its operational integration with other interstate agencies.
- Deployment capabilities and major maintenance of C-130 "Hercules" aircraft.
- Interaction of the Operational Command and Control Center in civil-military operations such as natural disasters and pandemics, among others.
- National Guard personnel: employment and type of Reserves.
- Analysis of the State Partnership Program, to evaluate activities carried out since its inception, as well as the planning next tasks.

Brigadier Major Xavier J. Isaac and the Defense and Aeronautical Attaché, Néstor Guajardo, in dialogue with engineers from the Georgia National Guard.



VIRTUAL REALITY IN FLIGHT SIMULATORS, WITH A VIEW TO MAXIMIZING THE USE OF FLIGHT HOURS IN AIR AND PILOT TRAINING.

Later, in Tucson, the delegation was received by Air Force Major General Barry R. Cornish, who serves as the commander of the Twelfth Air Force, along with his General Staff. The following topics were discussed:

- Use of unmanned aircraft in civic-military operations such as forest fires, floods, among others.
- Repair of runways, taxiways and facilities.
- Virtual Reality in flight simulators, with a view to maximizing the use of flight hours in air and pilot training.
- Interoperability of the Southern Command and Control Center during interstate operations.
- The Air Force Cooperation System (SICOFAA), to strengthen capabilities among the Air Forces in the Americas.

This visit once again demonstrates the potential of working together on defense. As was the case with the April visit of the Head of Southern Command, Admiral Craig Faller, and the last meeting of the Bilateral Working Group on Defense, the agenda of mutual interests expands and deepens, thereby enriching a relationship the stand by on shared values.■



BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART, A TREASURE OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ARGENTINE ART

Although perhaps unknown to many people, the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin is not only one of the largest university art museums in the United States, but it also brings together more than 3,800 works of art from Latin America, among which the most important examples of the artistic renewal of the interwar period and the avant-garde of the postwar period in Argentina can be highlighted.

Since its founding in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art demonstrated a strong interest in modern and contemporary Latin American art. Throughout that decade and the beginning of the next one, it hosted several exhibitions of Argentine art, including New Art of Argentina, organized in 1965 by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Instituto Di Tella in Buenos Aires. It should be noted that in the Argentina of the mythical decade

of the 60 marked by the experimental avant-gardes, the development of fine arts was closely linked to the Torcuato Di Tella Institute. The most audacious proposals of the 60s were developed in its premises on Florida Street, and in the "manzana loca" (crazy block).

Through numerous exhibitions and national and international Awards, the Di Tella Institute, headed by Jorge Romero Brest, disseminates and promotes artistic experimentation and encourages international contacts. Argentine artists' international updating contributed to the extraordinary dynamic artistic activity in the 60s, as demonstrated in the vertiginous process of radicalization of the avant-garde movement.

A prominent artist of this new experimentation, which involved leaving painting behind, to instead

THE SIGNIFICANT ART DONATIONS MADE BY BARBARA DUNCAN AND JOHN DUNCAN, TO THE MUSEUM HELPED CREATE THE CORE OF ITS LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION, AND INCLUDED WORKS BY ARGENTINE ARTISTS.

use objects and happenings, is Marta Minujín, whose work "Pausa transformacional" is part of the Blanton Museum of Art's collection. Minujín, together with Rubén Santantonín, were the creators of La Menesunda at the Di Tella, a "tour" in which the viewer participates in diverse experiences. La Menesunda is "a whim, nonsense, a way of putting those who accept in strange, difficult, and embarrassing situations"; its reconstruction was presented for the first time in the United States in 2019 at the New Museum in New York.

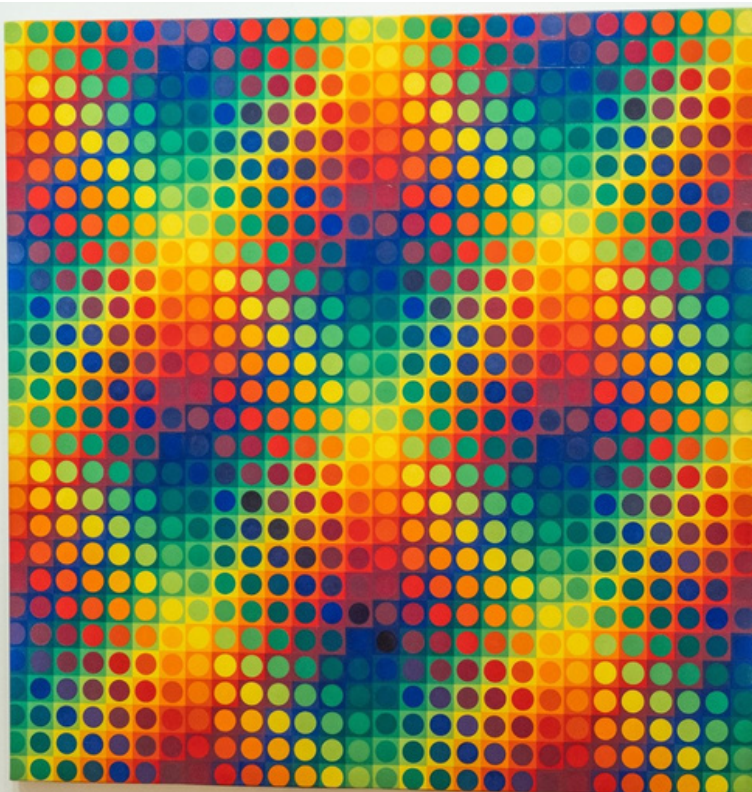
Another artist and great example of this period is León Ferrari, whose drawings and prints are also part of the museum's collection and whose work anticipated the politicization that art would undergo towards the end of that decade.

One other exhibition that sparked the Blanton Museum's interest in Argentine art was Contemporary Argentine Painting, organized by Argentine art critic Damián Bayón in 1971 while he was a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin. At that time, Barbara Duncan a collector and art historian, organized an exhibition by Uruguayan artist Joaquín Torres-García. Her interest in the art from the Río de la Plata region also had an impact on her as a collector.

The significant art donations made by Barbara Duncan and her husband, John Duncan, to the museum helped create the core of its Latin American collection, and included works by Argentine artists such as Antonio Berni, Marcelo Bonevardi, Ari Brizzi, Jorge de la Vega, Raquel Forner, Liliana Porter and Clorindo Testa. Special mention should be made of the piece "Mediodía" by Antonio Berni, who as an already prominent artist, was part of the resurgence of realism that took place in the '70s as a response to conceptualism.

Since then, the museum has continued to collect art from the region, including a large number of contemporary Argentine artists such as Victor

Julio Le Parc, "Sin título [Untitled]," circa 1972, Acrylic on canvas, Collection of Carl & Marilyn Thoma, Blanton Museum of Art.



Opticality

The 1960s saw America, and the that exploited human and brain processes the movement by artists dismissed and visual games influence. It over which often involved illusionistic rather made explored the color contrasts, patterns systems (the most vibrations). It was both mediums came with intensely sat

Grippe, who participated in the conceptualism of the first half of the 70s. This trend deepened the art-political relationship, by denouncing repressive actions by the military dictatorship and highlighting the Latin American regional identity. Thus, in his work "Analogy I" Grippe connects 40 potatoes to a voltmeter to measure its energy, as a reflection on the complex relationship between the conqueror and the conquered.

Among other additions to the museum's collection are works by Antonio Berni, Nicola Constantino, Delia Cugat, Pablo Curatella Manes, Claudia del Río, Sarah Grillo, Miguel Harte, Benito Laren, Rómulo Macció, Luis Felipe Noé, Rogelio Polesello, César Paternosto, Miguel Angel Ríos, Antonio Seguí, and Edgardo Antonio Vigo.

More recently, Judith S. and Charles W. Tate donated a significant number of modern Latin American art from the first half of the 20th century to complement the more contemporary works in the Blanton Museum collection. Among the most significant examples are works by Argentine artists Martín Blasko, Alfredo Hlito, Gyula Kosice, Emilio Pettoruti, and Xul Solar. Blasko, Hlito and Kosice are outstanding exponents of the concretism that emerged at the end of the Second World War and as historical avant-gardes, articulated a radical program that questioned the place of the artist and tried to erase the limits between the arts and contemporary reality conditioned by the progress in science and technology.

For their part, Pettoruti and Solar were among the artists trained in Europe who stand out in the



Ambassador Jorge Argüello next to Antonio Berni's "Noontime", 1976 during his recent visit to the Blanton Museum

artistic renewal of the 1920s in Buenos Aires, a decade in which after the Great War, Argentina experienced economic splendor. Buenos Aires turned into a great modern metropolis with a new mentality, open to change and novelty. The work of Solar is closer to the solutions of the avant-garde of the early twentieth century, while Pettoruti, who is aware of and adopts the solutions of Cubism through the futurism prevailing in Italy, exhibited the first paintings with a cubist tendency in Buenos Aires.

A visit to the Blanton Museum's collection will undoubtedly enable you to take a tour across a large part of the artistic movements of the twentieth century in Argentina through its most prominent representatives. We invite you to discover them and come closer to a part of our country's history. The complete collection can be visited virtually at the following link: <https://collection.blantonmuseum.org>. ■

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