



Arnold Sobers

Artist

Bio

Arnold Sobers was born and raised in New York City. After obtaining a MBA/International Management from Adelphi University in Long Island, he worked for Citibank and later joined the Peace Corps, where he served as a Business Advisor on the Manila Loan Team at the Central Bank of the Philippines. After returning from Manila, Sobers joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C. in 1986 where he met his wife, Sharon Cromer, a career foreign service officer. For the next 20 years, Sobers, his wife and their two daughters lived in Pakistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Indonesia, Ghana and Nigeria. In 2009, they returned to the U.S., with Sobers returning to their home in New York City to focus on his art.

In 1991 Sobers started painting and drawing professionally at the urging of his wife who had seen early pieces in his mother's home. Since then Sobers has exhibited his art all over the world, including the National Museum in Mali, LINEART in Belgium, the Kunst & Antiek Beurs Exhibit in The Netherlands, Gallery Hadiprana in Indonesia, the Biennale, DakART, L'IFAN Museum, and the National Gallery in Senegal, and the 50th Armonk Art Show, the Contemporary Art Fair NYC at the Jacob Javits Center and the 2012 Harlem Fine Arts Show at the New York Times Headquarters and the historic Riverside Church in New York. Since the early 2000's Sobers has been a featured American artist in the U.S. State Department's Art in Embassies Program with pieces on display in official U.S Ambassador residences in Indonesia, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, and Ghana.

Sobers' repertoire of art work spans from sculpture to abstracts to detailed classical drawings. In each piece, Sobers strives to capture the essence of the subject. He writes "I am enormously inspired by the natural beauty and the spiritual aspects of the cultures I have experienced throughout my travels. Using pencils, oils and acrylics, I focus on the aspects of the subject which capture its emotional content. With each work, my goal is to express the soul of the subject, not merely its form." In September 2001, an art critic with The Jakarta Post wrote "Among the works on display, the stunning black and white portraits by Arnold Sobers stand out. ...One of Sobers' works on display is Men Who Dream, which is mesmerizing for the uncertainty captured in the (Indonesian) male model's eyes, along with the accompanying expression of hope."

According to Sobers, the creative process is a cocktail of inspiration, effort and love which begins with a detailed study of the subject and can take several days or weeks to complete. Over the past two years, Sobers has focused primarily on painting, blending a contemporary style with colors, lines and form to create an aesthetic informed by African symbols and culture. This is the first year that Arnold Sobers will present an array of his drawings and paintings at the Howland Cultural Center, Beacon, New York.



Acrilic on canvas



Acrylic on wood