

Welcoming speech of the US Consul General Dr. Inmi Kim Patterson on the occasion of the opening of the *FrauenFreiluftGalerie Hamburg* on 26. Juli 2013

I am very pleased to be present today at the opening of the FrauenFreiluftGalerie Hamburg. This notable event connects many interesting elements, that are important from an intellectual-cultural perspective, but also important for me personally, being a woman.

This great project brings Hamburg and New York closer - two wonderful cities that have much in common. For instance, they both developed on the basis of their harbours and trade, and today belong to the liveliest cities of the world. They are both cultural capitals in which one may enjoy numerous exciting events.

This project uplifts the role of women in art as well as in the harbour and in trade. We can all agree that the horizon for women is constantly expanding and that women today have more possibilities than ever before. Be it in sports, business or politics, women play a steadily growing role in contributing ideas, imagination, and achievements. The female economic power in the harbours is no exception. Women have and had many and diverse careers in the harbour – from fish filleters or office employees, to metal workers or engineers. Women were often captains of their own ships. Without the material contributions from women in the harbours, Hamburg – and its famous harbour – would not be so successful as it is today.

We now see murals in the harbour that take up and honour the pioneer work of the "harbour women", wonderfully painted by Ms. Braun-Reinitz, Ms. Schuster, Ms. Kazci and other very talented artists. We were of course very pleased to support such an event.

I would like to once again thank the FrauenFreiluftGalerie and congratulate all artists for this opening. Thank you very much.