

The White House Embattled: The U.S. Election 2024

Lecture Series of the North American Studies Program |
in cooperation with the Amerika Haus NRW e. V., the Bundeszentrale
für politische Bildung (bpb), and the Deutsch-Kanadische Gesellschaft
e. V. (DKG)

American Democracy at Risk: An Artist's View

Thursday | 16 May 2024 | 4:00-6:00 pm
53111 Bonn | Rabinstraße 8 | Seminarraum 8

Bill Travis

Artist | New York City



Bill Travis, from the Torment Series, 2022.

As American democracy has come increasingly under attack from within, and lies, conspiracy theories, and physical violence thrive, artist Bill Travis has sought to express his fear and rage as authentically as he can, through images. The photo-based pictures he has made over the past few years find inspiration in the art of Francisco Goya, especially his Black Paintings, with their powerful examination of humanity's dark underside. Rather than depict actual individuals, Travis focuses on emotional forces, which is why his series deals with images of conflict. What's happening in the United States today is transformed into a visual realm that creates its own time and space.

Bill Travis was a professor of art history at the University of Michigan before becoming an artist twenty years ago, exploring the complex relationship between painting and photography. Ever since his work has been exhibited in museums, galleries, universities, and public institutions around the world and featured in books, anthologies, and periodicals.