

## The Peale, Baltimore

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

*Out of the Blocks* is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Speaker 1 ([00:01](#)):

[inaudible 00:00:01] patio, Marco. [crosstalk 00:00:04]

Spiro Kranis ([00:04](#)):

Today I'll be working the inside in some lady's house, and then I'm going to work a little bit outside on their porch, [Sabelot 00:00:11] in downtown. And my name [Spiro Kranis 00:00:15], we're in a Greek town, [Helendown 00:00:19], at one of the coffee shops, they call 'Greek Village'. Myself, I'm a painter.

First time I see the United States was 1978, I guess I was nineteen years old. You know, I was working on the ship when I was... You know, started work on the ship when I was sixteen years old. So, I guess a couple of years later, ship come to America, we come from Brazil, [Cardinal 00:00:44] from Brazil to America, so we stopped like New York, Baltimore. And the last stop was in the Houston, Texas. So I

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guess the last night I went out, in Texas, decide not go in. Left all my things in the ship, I just, I just stay out. And then, I don't know, for some reason I come to Baltimore.

Speaker 3 ([01:11](#)):

You can't remember why?

Spiro Kranis ([01:12](#)):

Yeah, I just travel, you know I was young, yeah. You know, like to go to new opportunities.

So I come to Baltimore and I guess stick here. The good thing was I meet girl, Melanie... I meet, you know, girl first day here, I guess in Baltimore. And we're married now for thirty years. That's one good thing about...

Speaker 3 ([01:50](#)):

Can I ask what's making you feel emotional right now?

Spiro Kranis ([01:54](#)):

I don't know, it's just through all these years, you know I stay with same woman.

Speaker 3 ([02:02](#)):

You're crying tears of happiness, right now?

Spiro Kranis ([02:03](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

So, I live in Michigan and Baltimore all these years. I work every day. I never miss day, even I'm sick. I work hard, you know? I think I make it okay.

Speaker 3 ([02:22](#)):

Your tears of happiness are beautiful tears. They're a beautiful thing to see, on a morning like this.

Spiro Kranis ([02:29](#)):

Oh yes, okay, well I'm happy every morning anyway. When I come here, I always make noise, you know. Even six o'clock in the morning, come here and I always go like, "Woo hoo!" I scream unusually. People think I'm crazy but that's what I do when I woke up in the morning.

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Speaker 3 ([02:47](#)):

So I've been practicing my Greek, Spiro, you want to hear what I can say? Let me try. [Greek language 00:02:51]

Spiro Kranis ([02:50](#)):

My story is beautiful.

Speaker 3 ([02:57](#)):

[Greek language 00:02:57]

Spiro Kranis ([02:57](#)):

[Greek language 00:02:57] Thank you.