Art of Vermont
THE STATE COLLECTION
Cover:
Eric Aho
Night Mowing, 2007
oil on canvas, 60"x 68"
Art in State Buildings:
Old National Life Building, Montpelier

Detail:
Andrea Wasserman, Elizabeth Billings
untitled, 2007
woven cotton, ikat dyed with cutch
Art in State Buildings:
Old National Life Building, Montpelier
Art of Vermont
THE STATE COLLECTION

Celebrating twenty years of the Art in State Buildings Program
W. C. Stacey
Vermont Coat of Arms, 1895
oil on canvas, 49 1/2” x 31 1/2”
State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
An Invitation...

As Vermont observes the 150th birthday of its State House, we celebrate not only a remarkably intimate and historic capitol building, but a truly wonderful collection of art that was created to help tell the story of our past. The valiant rescue of the large portrait of George Washington from the fire of 1857, among other works of art, is indicative of the value Vermonters have always placed on their public art. We still use these works to interpret our past and keep us mindful of the principles that have always defined the character of the people who make Vermont so special.

The Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services have organized a traveling exhibit which hopes to share our substantial art collection with every part of the state. The exhibit and this catalogue represent but a small sampling of works collected over a century and a half, including those commissioned through the 20-year-old Art in State Buildings Program. Both endeavors significantly reveal the remarkable breadth of artistic quality in this collection—all owned by the people of Vermont.

In 1988 the Art in State Buildings Act was passed by the General Assembly “to enhance and preserve our cultural environment and to provide artistic enrichment for Vermont citizens and visitors, in recognition of the need to encourage the work of Vermont artists.” Twenty years later, we celebrate the enhanced working environments in facilities throughout the state, and the improved character and quality that these artistic endeavors have brought to state buildings.

I invite all Vermonters to visit one of our many state buildings or stop at one of the exhibits arranged at their local galleries to experience this rich and varied collection of Vermont art.

Sincerely,

James H. Douglas
Governor

Michael Sacca and Elizabeth Billings
Photographs
Art in State Buildings: County Courthouse, St. Johnsbury
Henry Kirke Brown

*Elijah Paine*, 1846
marble, 23” x 17”

State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
The State Art Collection

It was a tie. On a late November day in 1837, the Vermont Senate voted whether or not to purchase a large oil portrait of George Washington by a German-born artist named George Gassner. The painting was a more or less faithful copy of Gilbert Stuart’s full-length portrait of the first President hanging in Providence, Rhode Island, and it was offered for sale “at a reasonable rate” to hang in the newly-constructed State House. Lt. Gov. David Camp cast the tie-breaking vote to purchase the painting, and the State of Vermont has been collecting art ever since.

Nearly 20 years later the portrait would join a B. F. Mason oil of Gov. Charles Williams and a Henry Kirke Brown marble bust of former U.S. Sen. Elijah Paine as the only works of art to survive a catastrophic fire which destroyed Vermont’s second capitol. The trio would form the nucleus of a reinstalled state art collection in the rebuilt State House of 1859, along with two sculptures by Larkin Mead. For the next century the collection would grow, particularly with additional portraits of former governors and various military heroes. Indeed, the State House would remain the only location where state-owned art would reside.

With the 1964 founding of the Vermont Arts Council, building a state art collection would become a goal beyond the walls of the capitol itself. In 1968 and 1971 UVM’s Paul Aschenbach invited internationally-heralded sculptors to place their large abstract marble and concrete pieces at rest areas all along the newly-completed Interstate highways, where most remain to this day. The Arts Council also purchased a wide variety of pieces for the newly-constructed Pavilion State Office Building when it was finished in 1971. That installation would prove to be the first public art specifically placed by the Council in a state facility, a practice they would continue for buildings throughout Vermont during the 1970’s and 80’s. In 1988, with the establishment of the Art in State Buildings Program, the State Art Collection would really take off—and it is that public art program which has allowed the placement of a wide assortment of works of art in facilities all over the state. Many of these works have been integrated into the very fabric of the buildings for which they were created. All celebrate the special qualities and communities of Vermont.

Art helps define who we are as people. As we look back over the works that constitute the State Art Collection, we cannot help but be struck by the amazing messages that are conveyed about Vermont and its people. We hope you will appreciate that whenever and wherever you encounter them.

David Schütz
State Curator
Kathleen O’Connor
*Flower, detail, 1993*
granite, marble
Vermont Arts Council lobby floor
Vermont’s Art in State Buildings Program

The Vermont Art in State Buildings program is a public art program administered by the Vermont Arts Council that supports and promotes the work of Vermont artists in communities throughout the state. The program is designed to preserve and enrich the state’s cultural landscape for its citizens and visitors. It is dedicated to enhancing public buildings and spaces by improving their character and the quality of our working environments.

How does public art do this?

By engaging people in a civic dialogue about what matters most to them about their communities. 
*The Art in State Buildings Program emphasizes education and the participation of the communities and agencies that will live and work with the selected art every day.*

By connecting artists with communities. 
*Artists commissioned through the program spend many hours engaging the community and having a dialogue about their values and their priorities.*

By expanding and enhancing art experiences for the general public. 
*Placing works of art in state buildings offers opportunities for people to experience art – even if they have never set foot in a gallery or museum.*

By providing opportunities for economic benefit. 
*By supporting Vermont artists, we also support the many businesses they work with – designers, engineers, electricians, insurance agents, hardware stores, art supply stores, lumberyards, etc.*

By enhancing Vermont's public spaces. 
*By investing in Vermont’s public spaces and making them special places for our citizens and visitors, we create attractions for visitors. Public art can commemorate and memorialize people, places and events, add beauty, and provide us with an opportunity to step outside our daily lives – even if just for a moment.*

We invite you to celebrate 20 years of the Art in State Buildings Program by viewing the wonderful and varied body of work that has been collected.

Alexander L. Aldrich  
Executive Director  
Vermont Arts Council

Michele Bailey  
Program Director  
Vermont Arts Council

Jim Florschutz of Newfane in his workshop  
Lynn Newcomb of Worcester at her forge
Andrea Wasserman and Elizabeth Billings
detail, mixed media
Art in State Buildings Program: Old National Life Building
Elizabeth Nelson

*Summer Night, West Glover, Vermont*, 2003
oil on birch panel, 48” x 48”

Art in State Buildings: Public Safety Building, Derby
James F. Gilman
View of Montpelier, 1889
oil on canvas, 16 1/4" x 24"

State House Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Claire Van Vliet

Burke, 1987

pulp painting, 27" x 62" (framed), printed at MacGregor-Vinzani, Whiting, Maine

Art in State Buildings: District Courthouse, St. Albans
Annemie Curlin

From bottom left:

triptych, 2007

*Rutland City, Center Street and Court Street*
oil on board, 24 1/4" x 24 1/2"

*Rutland City, Railroad Yard*
oil on board, 24 1/4" x 24 1/2"

*Rutland City, State Street*
oil on board, 24 1/4" x 24 1/2"

Art in State Buildings: District Courthouse, Rutland
Thelma Appel

*Champlain Valley*, 1977
oil on canvas, 33" x 84"

Vermont Arts Council Purchase: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Eugene Fern
Rolling Hills of Vermont (c. 1980)
acrylic on masonite, 35 1/2" x 37"  
State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Thomas Curtin (1899-1977)

Horse Team and Sugar Shack

oil on board, 16" x 20"

State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Jeanette Chupack

*Studio Interior, June Afternoon*, 1987

oil on canvas, 47" x 61"

State House Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Robert K. Carsten
Comtu Falls on the Black River, 1998
pastel on wood panel, 40” x 70”

Art in State Buildings: State Office Building, Springfield
Alden Bryan
*Cambridge*, c. 1955
oil on canvas, 27” x 36”
State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Viuu Niiler

*Harmony of the Spring Mountain Range*, 1982
woven hand-dyed New Zealand oriental carpet wool on cotton warp, 54 1/2 " x 96 1/4"

Vermont Arts Council Purchase: District Courthouse, Barre
Lawrence C. Goldsmith

*High Elevation*, 1985

watercolor on paper, 25 1/2" x 31 1/4"

State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Lois Eby
*Dancing Series: Simplicity 1*, 2006
acrylic and ink on paper, 30" x 29"
State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Andrea Wasserman, Elizabeth Billings, Jeffrey Sass, Eric Oberg, Carl Bielenberg

*Kinetic Leaf Sculpture*, 1999

Birch veneer, fiberglass and copper, 12’ H, 6’ L, 4’ W

Art in State Buildings: Emory Hebard State Office Building, Newport
Christoph Spath

*Balance*, 1995
granite and glass, 61” x 51” x 8”

Art in State Buildings: Costello Courthouse, Burlington
Francis R. Hewitt
Red/Red Purple, 1982
watercolor, acrylic and oil on paper
framed: 29 3/4" x 22 1/2" and 36" x 52"

Vermont Arts Council Purchase: District Courthouse, Barre
Emily Mason

*Seam By Seam*, 2007
monoprint, 24" x 22 1/2"
Art in State Buildings:
Old National Life Building, Montpelier

Emily Mason

*Dusty*, 2007
monoprint, 24" x 22 1/2"
Art in State Buildings:
Old National Life Building, Montpelier
Näkki Goranin

Mr. Richard Nye, 1997
gelatin silver print, 16” x 23”

Art in State Buildings: John J. Zampieri State Office Building, Burlington
Peter Miller

Fred Tuttle, 1987
gelatin silver print, (1/20), 11 1/2" x 16"

State Art Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Julian Scott
*The Mounted Sentry*, 1884
oil on canvas, 12” x 18”
State House Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Janet Fredericks
Sara Reclining, 1983-86
oil and oil pastel on canvas, 34" x 30"
Vermont Arts Council Purchase: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
In honor of Arthur Williams
J. Q. A. Ward
*Erastus Fairbanks*, c. 1860
marble, 31 1/2" x 24"

State House Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Thomas Waterman Wood
*Daniel P. Thompson*, 1880
oil on canvas, 29" x 25"

State House Collection: Capitol Complex, Montpelier
Where to Find the Art...

The State Art Collection includes the work of hundreds of artists, and can be found at the following locations around Vermont.

**ADDISON COUNTY**
County Courthouse
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT

**BENNINGTON COUNTY**
Bennington State Office Building
1 Veterans Memorial Drive
Bennington, VT

Downtown State Office Building
324 Main Street
Bennington, VT

**CALEDONIA COUNTY**
County Courthouse
1126 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, VT

Lyndon State College
Library
Lyndonville, VT

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY**
Costello Courthouse
32 Cherry Street
Burlington, VT

John Zampieri State Office Building
108 Cherry Street
Burlington, VT

**Public Safety Facility
565 St. George Road
Williston, VT

Williston Welcome Center
I-89 Northbound
Williston, VT

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**
District Courthouse
36 Lake Street
St. Albans, VT

**Public Safety Facility
Route 105
St. Albans, VT

**LAMOILLE COUNTY**
Johnson State College
Library
Johnson, VT

**ORANGE COUNTY**
Vermont Technical College
Morrill Hall
Randolph, VT

**ORLEANS COUNTY**
Public Safety Facility
Route 5
Derby, VT

Emory Hebard State Office Building
Main Street
Newport, VT

**RUTLAND COUNTY**
Castleton State College
Academic Building
Castleton, VT

**County Courthouse
9 Merchants Row
Rutland, VT

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**
The State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT

**District Courthouse
255 North Main Street
Barre, VT

Pavilion Office Building
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT

Old Power House
6 Baldwin Street/135 State Street
Montpelier, VT

Vermont Arts Council
136 State Street
Montpelier, VT

State Office Building
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT

Old National Life Building
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT

General Services Building
Route 2
Middlesex, VT

Waterbury State Offices – Old Laundry Building
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT

**WINDSOR COUNTY**
Public Safety Facility
Route 107
Bethel/Royalton, VT

Springfield State Office Building
100 Mineral Street
Springfield, VT

**STATEWIDE**
Sculpture on the Highway
A unique collection of sculpture at Welcome Centers and Rest Areas along Vermont’s scenic Interstate System. (I-89 & I-91)

**NOTE:** A few locations require advance notice of a visit as the artwork may not be in areas that allow public access. Please contact the State Curator’s Office at the Department of Buildings & General Services or the Vermont Arts Council for more information. See back cover for contact information.
Eduardo Ramirez
untitled, 1971
congcrete, 9' x 12' x 9'
Sculpture on the Highway:
Welcome Center, Williston
I-89, southbound

Acknowledgements

The Department of Buildings & General Services and the Vermont Arts Council
would like to thank Paul Gruhler for his hard work and dedication in developing
this catalogue and for organizing and curating a traveling exhibition of the State Art
Collection. The works shown in this catalogue represent a sampling of the diverse
works of art owned by the State of Vermont. By curating a show that highlights
the work of some of the best Vermont artists and taking the exhibit “on the road”
to all corners of the state, we celebrate the 170 year-old evolution of the State Art
Collection as well as 20 years of commissioned work created through the Art in
State Buildings Program.

Many thanks as well for the organizing skills of Assistant State Curator Tracy Martin
and the superb photography of Jeb Wallace-Brodeur.

For additional information about the art, artists and locations, visit
www.bgs.state.vt.us/curatorial.index.htm or www.vermontartsCouncil.org
Art of Vermont
THE STATE COLLECTION

For more information contact:

Office of the State Curator
Department of Buildings & General Services
2 Aiken Avenue, Montpelier, VT 05633-5802
802-828-5657
david.schutz@state.vt.us
TTY 711

Art in State Buildings Program
Vermont Arts Council
136 State Street, Montpelier, VT 0533-6001
info@VermontArtsCouncil.org
802-828-3291
TTY 711