

# Art of Vermont

THE STATE COLLECTION







Detail:

**Andrea Wasserman, Elizabeth Billings**

untitled, 2007

woven cotton, ikat dyed with cutch

Art in State Buildings:

Old National Life Building, Montpelier

*Cover:*

**Eric Aho**

*Night Mowing, 2007*

oil on canvas, 60"x 68"

Art in State Buildings:

Old National Life Building, Montpelier

**Large  
Print**

ALTERNATIVE FORMAT  
AVAILABLE UPON  
REQUEST

# 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.

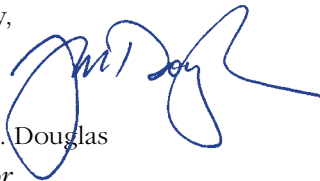
The Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services have organized a traveling exhibit which hopes to share our substantial art collection with every part of the state. The exhibit and this catalogue represent but a small sampling of works collected over a century and a 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.

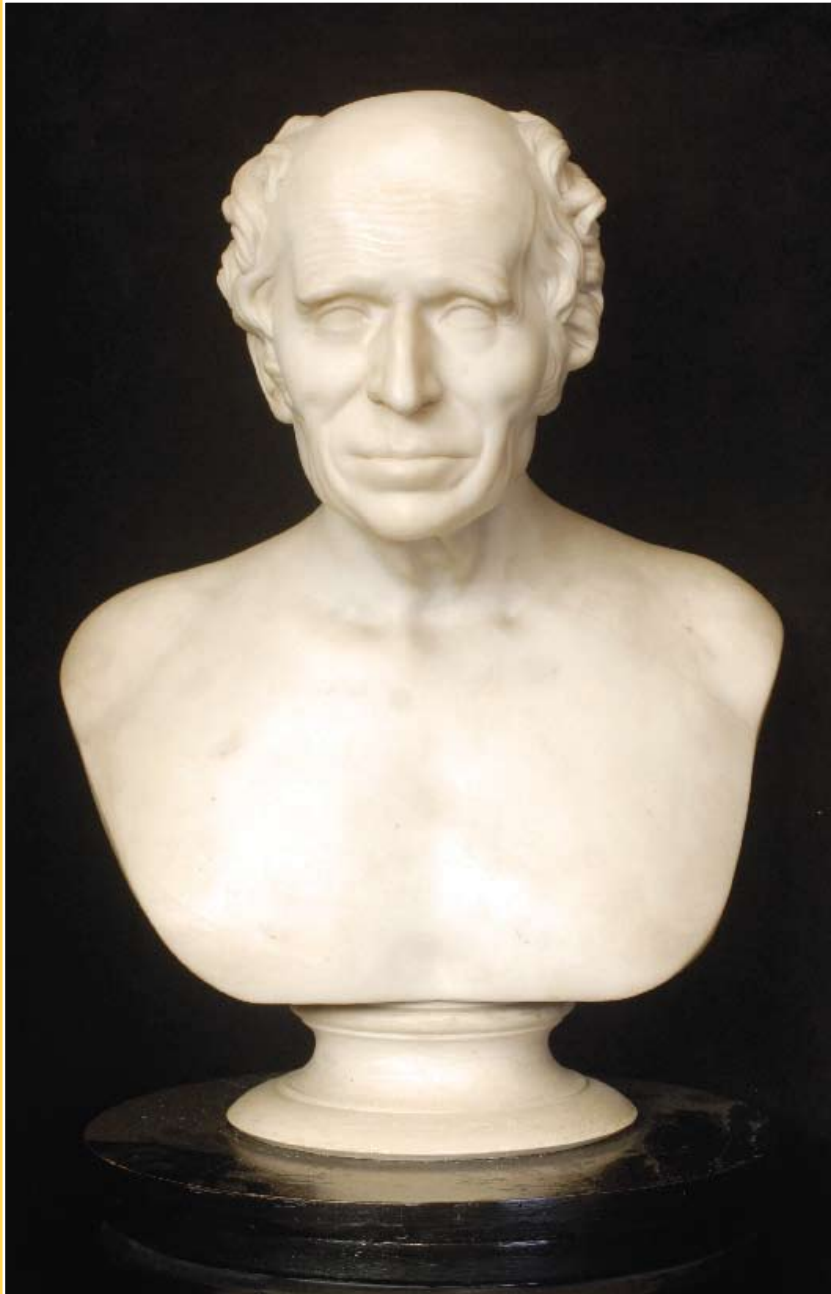
Sincerely,

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

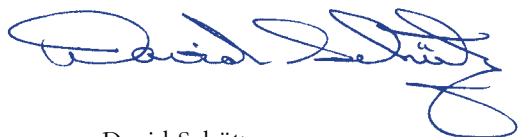
## The State Art Collection

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



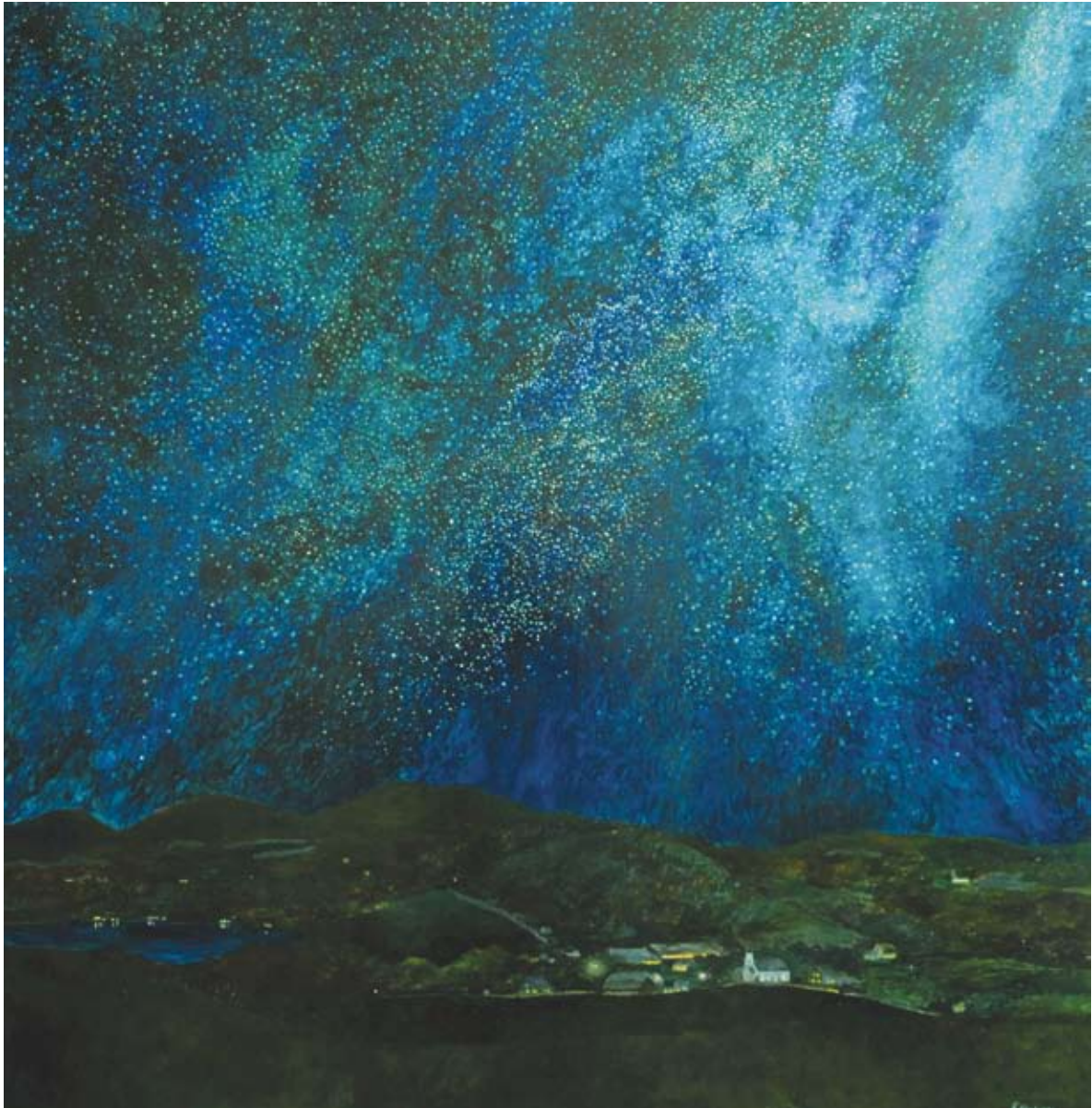
Lynn Newcomb of Worcester at her forge



Andrea Wasserman and  
Elizabeth Billings  
detail, mixed media

Art in State Buildings Program: Old National Life Building





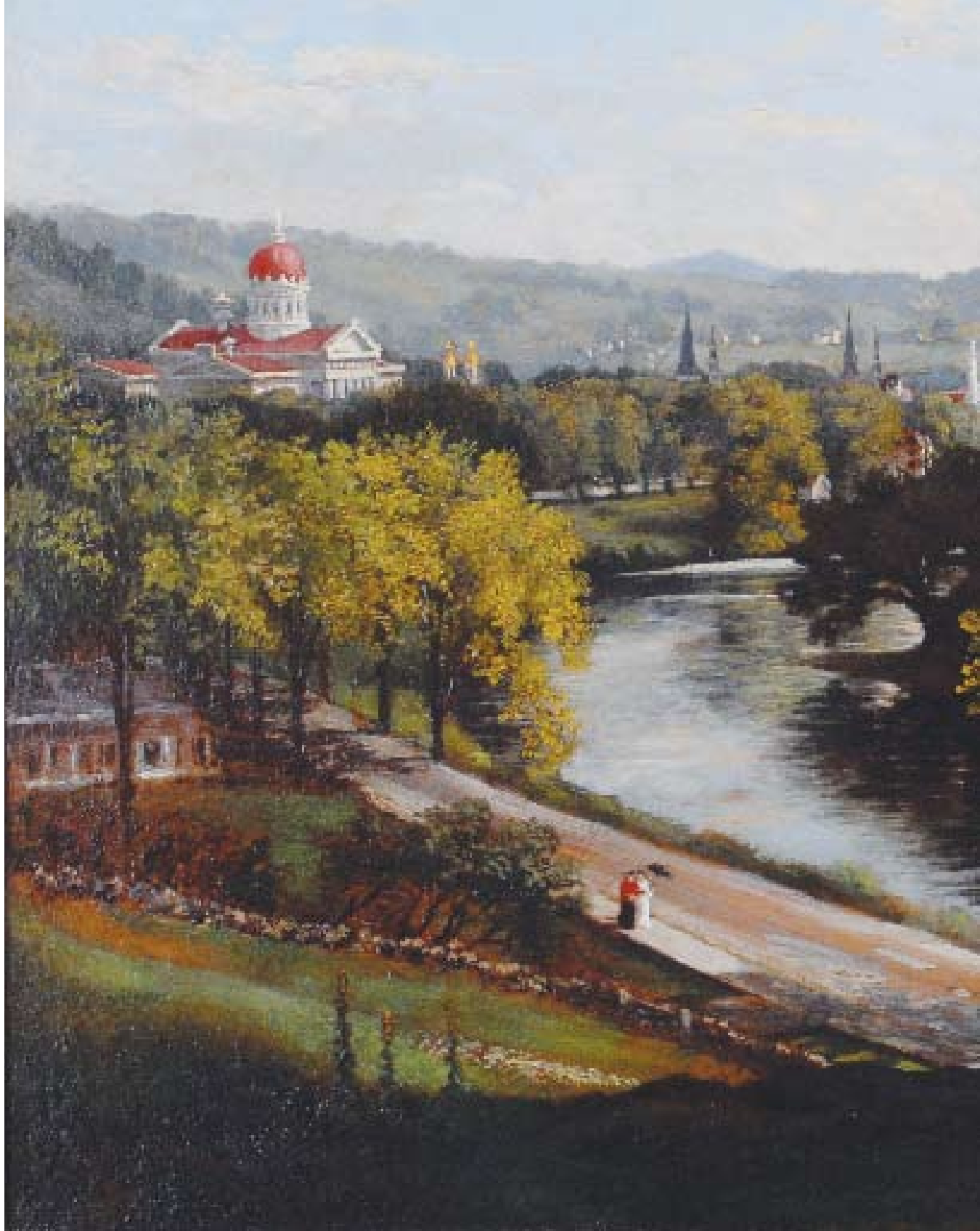
**Elizabeth Nelson**

*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:

trptych, 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**

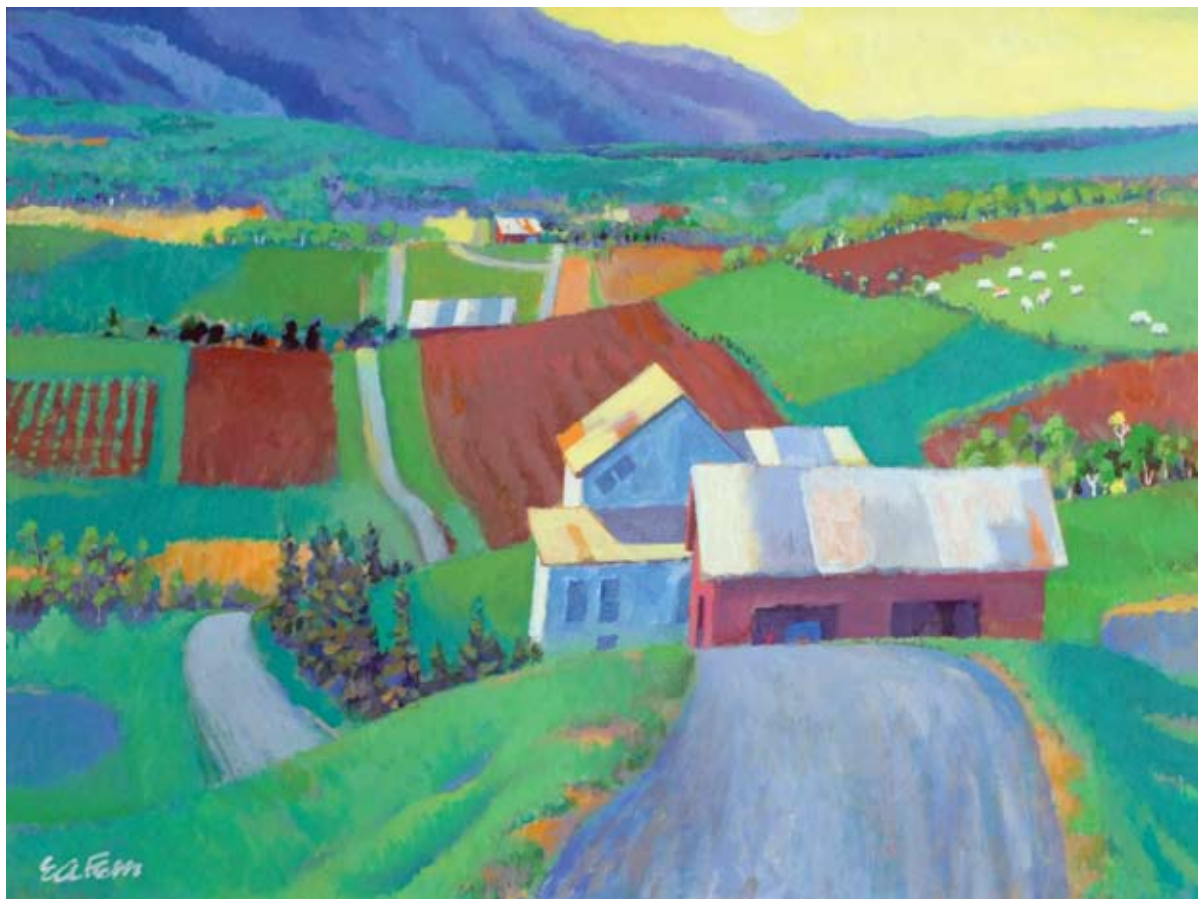
*Champlain Valley, 1977*

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







**Viiu 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**

*Dusty*, 2007

monoprint, 24" x 22 1/2"

Art in State Buildings:

Old National Life Building, Montpelier



**Emily Mason**

*Seam By Seam*, 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



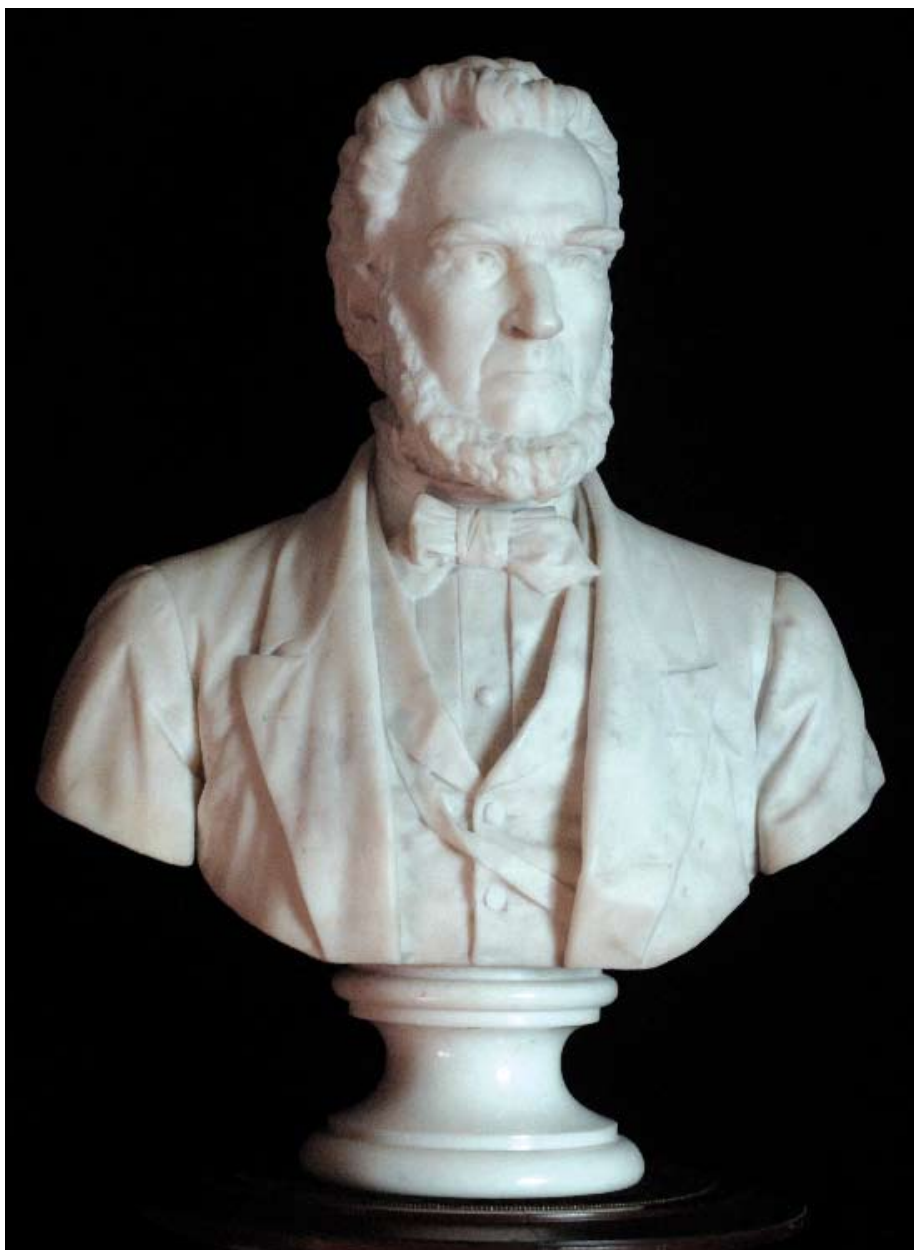
**Janet Fredericks**

*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



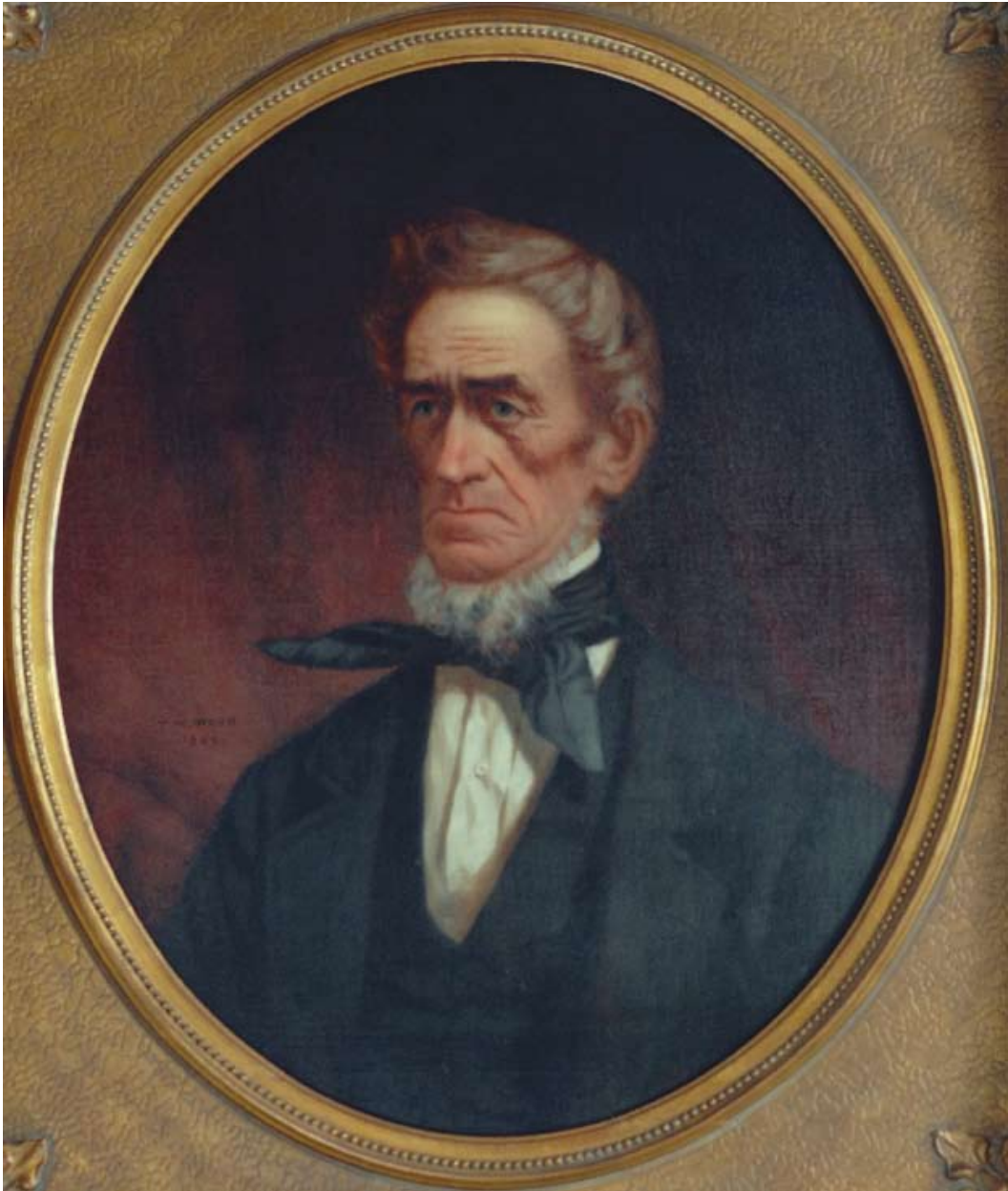
J. Q. A. Ward

*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  
concrete, 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.

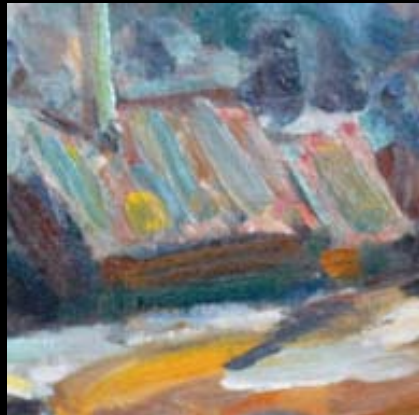
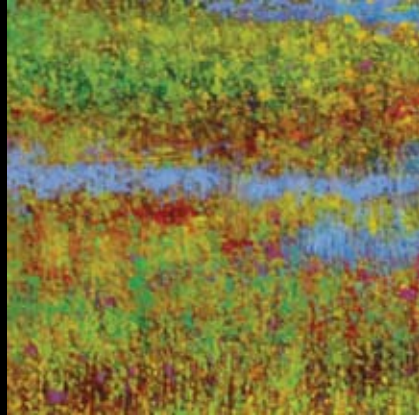
For additional information about the art, artists and locations, visit [www.bgs.state.vt.us/curatorial.index.htm](http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/curatorial.index.htm) or [www.vermontartscouncil.org](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org)





# Art of Vermont

## THE STATE COLLECTION



*For more information contact:*

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