

# Bill Botzow

*R—8, (June 1968)*

*Acrylic and graphite on paper*

*18 x 24 inches*

*Opening bid: \$500*

## **Artist's Statement:**

June of 1968. Wherever you were it wasn't all peace and love. It was a world coming apart. Anti-establishment, Counter Culture, New Age and the assassinations, Martin Luther King, Kennedys, war in Asia, the Tet Offensive, the draft, civil rights marches, Greensboro uprising, space program disasters, a world coming apart, a dark time. I made this drawing then. Only one I can recall being so dark, a black rectangle, off center, with an illusionistic geometry pulling in, pushing out. The solid wasn't so solid then. Within months there would be turmoil and riots at the political conventions, the massive US Vietnam Moratorium marches, a march on Fort Dix, protests in the streets, "Interminably vocal youngsters, strangers alike to soap and reason", (General Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), students shot at, Jackson State, Kent State. Woodstock led to Altamont, Jimi dead, Janis dead, great music, back to the land, tantric art, black lung disease, burning Cuyahoga River, strip mines, "All You Need is Love", "Gimme Shelter", "Dock of the Bay", "Going to the Country", James Brown, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, Timothy Leary, Baba Ram Dass, Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, Huey Newton, Patti Hearst (Tania), Symbionese Liberation Army, Charles Manson. Bang! A black hole we had to come through together.

## **Biography:**

Bill Botzow has created work for museums, art centers, galleries, sculpture parks, arboretums, school grounds, parades and town squares as well as rivers, forests, fields, old mills, museums and churches. His artistic disciplines include sculpture, painting, drawing and performance.

Botzow's work has been shown at the Bennington Museum, Bennington, VT; Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Philadelphia, PA; De Cordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA; University of Vermont, Burlington, VT; Fuller Museum, Brockton, MA; Albany International Airport, Albany NY; Albany Center for the Arts, Albany, NY; Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; Williams College Art Museum, Williamstown, MA; Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT; and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. He is a frequent contributor to NBOSS, the annual North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show.

Complementing his work as a visual artist, Bill has served as Chair of the Vermont Arts Council and on the boards of the University of Vermont, River Network, the National Assembly of State Art Agencies, the New England Foundation for the Arts, The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, and Art/Omi. He has served on peer review panels for the NEA, the Nebraska, New Hampshire and Vermont Arts Council and many other arts organizations.

Bill also served for sixteen years as the State Representative for Pownal and Woodford to the Vermont Legislature where he chaired the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.