

Willard Boepple

Woodstock

23 x 20 x 23 inches

Painted Oak, 2018

Opening Bid: \$3500

Artist's Statement:

My Sculpture and Vermont in the Sixties

In his poem *Annus Mirabilis*, Philip Larkin writes that sex was invented in nineteen sixty-three. While this would come as news to most of our parents, I would say that the spirit of that antic, conflicted, colorful, complicated, playful, ideologically exuberant time may justify his claim - - at least in poetical terms. And I would add that Vermont did its best to create and nurture that spirit.

How does my sculpture Woodstock relate to or express the spirit of the sixties in Vermont? I must let my sculpture answer this question, let the sculpture tell the tale. I am an abstract sculptor and I want my work to speak directly with its own visual language in the way a piece of music speaks with its language of sound.

George Elwell, my old friend and lifetime pillar and resident of North Bennington was one of the very few Vermonters that I knew who braved the elements and got themselves to Woodstock back in that rainy August of 1969. It was a marathon trip that he would tell you about at the drop of a hat and with great relish and colorful detail.

I hope that in its way, my sculpture Woodstock captures something of that spirited time.

This sculpture, in his memory, is dedicated to George Elwell.