

G. Winterhalter

Sixties Vermont: Back to the Land

Acrylic polymer on canvas, 2018

Opening bid: \$1,150

Artist's Statement:

I came to Vermont by accident, in the fall of 1969, after graduating with an MFA in Painting from the Pratt Institute. It was fall and I had purchased a red VW Microbus (which I later discovered was used in the filming of *Alice's Restaurant*.) I was planning to drive out to California and settle in the Bay Area but ended up in Vermont. I blew the engine on the bus and it took most of my available money to replace it, so after visiting a friend in Shaftsbury, I decided to move north to Vermont. My trip to Vermont "put a hold on me" and my imagination. The beautiful landscape, the wonderful qualities of natural light and the nature here, as well as a solitary quiet and simplicity, were sending me a message. Living a life where I could have the time to work as an artist was all that I needed to escape the turmoil of that era in New York. The Vietnam War (that claimed the life of my older brother) presidential election politics, the Civil Rights struggles, street demonstrations and the Stonewall Uprising in my neighborhood, had taken much of my attention away from art. I guess I was part of the "Hippie Invasion" and an escapee from the urban scene.

My painting "Sixties in Vermont: Back to the Land," is my expression of those changing times and the new idealism I found here. After 49 years as a resident of the Bennington area, I know it was the right choice and has probably been the major foundation of all of the art, in multiple media, I have made since. It is impossible for me to come close to depicting the wonderful liberation of the creative spirit that I felt then and afterward as a working artist in this amazing place. I am presenting it to the Bennington Museum, with a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities granted to me over the years. For me, the picture expresses the sense of freedom and creative exploration that Vermont has afforded me. Freedom and Unity!

Biography:

Greg Winterhalter was born in New York City and grew up in Westchester County. He studied with Walter Murch, David Aronson, Conger Metcalf, Jack Kramer and Reed Kay at the College of Fine Arts in Boston University, where he also worked as the student assistant at the BU art Gallery. He earned his MFA from the Pratt Institute where he studied with the painter George McNeill.

Winterhalter was designated Professor Emeritus of Art, at Southern Vermont College, after teaching studio art as well as directing the college's Burghdorff Gallery for thirty-seven years. His work has been exhibited and sold in many galleries and exhibitions. His work is housed in the collections of Colby College, Boston University, the Sloan Kettering Institute, IBM, Southern Vermont College, Cornell University, and Skowhegan.