

Matthew Perry

The 1960s in Vermont

Pyrographic, watercolor

16 X 12 inches

Opening bid: \$ 4700

Artist's Statement:

When asked to make something related to *the 1960s in Vermont* exhibit, the only thing I could think of was that I was born in 1960, next door in New Hampshire. The first 10 years of my life comprised of the usual growing and learning. I lived in the country, had a pony and took family vacations throughout New England. I was oblivious to what was going on in America.

It wasn't until 1970 did I sense the energy of a world outside of myself. Something bigger than me was taking place. The Beatles had broke up and my older sister burned all her Beatle cards. She sobbed profusely. My mom was a health food nut and a weaver, my dad, an artist. They went on a charge to elect McGovern for president in 72' and each week we piled into our orange VW bus to go to a Transcendental Meditation class. I was obsessed with Peter Max, drawing on the walls of my room. It was the early 70s but this all had been percolating in the 1960s.

I've lived in Vermont 37 years now and know very little about what went on here during the 1960s, so I decided to make a little book about just that. Here are a few important stories that resonate to me as an adult. These stories define me as a Vermonter, one who is blessed by its beauty and strong independence, one who votes and is inspired by its inhabitants, its culture and history.

Biography:

After graduating from Swain School of Design in 1981 with a BFA in Graphic

Design, Matthew established his own graphic design and illustration studio in Weston, Vermont. His commercial illustration & design has appeared in several regional and national publications. In 1989, Matthew created the cartoon strip "Cyrus & Ida", which appeared weekly for 20 years in the Vermont News Guide. His paintings and sculptures are inspired by his surroundings whether in Vermont or through his travels in Europe, Brazil and Central America where he also has exhibited in group and solo shows.

In 1994, Matthew co-founded the Vermont Arts Exchange in North Bennington, Vermont, a non-profit community arts organization with a mission to *"bring the arts to people of all ages, abilities and income"*. He has taken part in numerous school and community arts residencies throughout the Northeast and in England working with troubled teens, the elderly, local schools and the general community. He has facilitated mentoring and training programs for artists and presents at conferences on community arts and integrating arts into health care settings. Matthew also oversees VAE's exhibitions and the performances of the Basement Music Series. His work through VAE has been recognized with awards from The Preservation Trust of Vermont, Orton Family Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Community Foundation.

