

Rhonda Ratray

Flower fireworks

Silk Screen and watercolor

12 x 18 inches

Opening bid: \$100

Green Mountain Bubbles

Silk Screen and watercolor

12 x18 inches

Opening bid: \$100

Stars and Bars

Silk Screen and watercolor

12 x18 inches

Opening bid: \$100

Cancellation Sunset

Silk Screen and watercolor

12 x18 inches

Opening bid: \$100

Artist's Statement:

These hand colored screen-prints aim to commemorate the life and death of Romaine Tenney. When confronted with eminent domain for the construction of Route 91 and the loss of his family's homestead, he chose self-immolation and lost his life 9/12/1964. Romaine refused to conform to the expectations of the State, he did not take the money and start over again.

Stylistically similar to some rock posters of the 1960's these tributes feature a hand cut stencil. These are individually hand inked and the design is one part Old School tattoo memorial and one part German Scherenschnitte. I chose the opening

line from the poem “America” by Allen Ginsberg to be printed on the banner that is grasped in the beak of the eagle. The tone of the poem seems to match the dread that Tenney could have felt in a losing battle against the State.

The eagle’s feathers depict Tenney’s dairy farm (25 cows and other animals) and in the eagle’s heart is the burning and billowing homestead of Romaine Tenney.

America (Excerpt)

by Allen Ginsberg

America I’ve given you all and now I’m nothing.

America two dollars and twenty-seven cents January 17, 1956.

I can’t stand my own mind.

America when will we end the human war?

Go f*** yourself with your atom bomb.

I don’t feel good don’t bother me.

I won’t write my poem till I’m in my right mind.

America when will you be angelic?

Biography:

Rhonda Ratray received her BFA from Alfred University School of Art and Design, and her MFA from The School of The Museum Of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University.

Finding inspiration in printmaking, painting, sculpture and design, She has taught at the the MFA Boston, The School of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, The Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA, The Essex Art Center, Lawrence, MA and The Brookline Art Center. She currently teaches at the Vermont Art Exchange, North Bennington, VT. Rhonda has exhibited her work in many universities and galleries including Montserrat College of Art, Emmanuel College, The Adikman Gallery at Tufts University, Medford, MA, and The Peabody Historical Society, Peabody, MA. Rhonda is the Artist in residence and curates The Left Bank

Gallery in North Bennington, VT. Rhonda grew up in the Bennington area and also paints under the name Aimee LaPorte.

You can find more information about all of her endeavors at www.ratray.com.