

Sara Farrell Okamura

An Offer Made That Cannot Be Refused

Monoprint and relief print /on paper (Framed)

24 x 18 inches

Opening Bid: \$350.

Artist's Statement:

When one conjures an image of mid-century Vermont rural life the ambience of a cozy kitchen heated by a wood stove with the aroma of baked goods wafting about is not too farfetched. An iconic-checkered tablecloth fits into this mise-en-scene vision by depicting time, security and warmth. The reality is there probably was a similar tablecloth, but the security and warmth were not always a guarantee. During the late 50s and early 60s farming was not always profitable, the growing season was short, and the work, backbreaking. When construction for an Interstate Highway began in 1958 it would mean safer roads, easy routes for commerce and more money for the citizens of Vermont. Progress. But progress is not always benign. Between 1958 and 1982 under the mantra, "for the greater good", 2000+ acres and 340 properties were seized by eminent domain. In most cases farmers and residents were compensated, some to their satisfaction, some not. No one imagined 50 years plus into the future what the land would be worth for decedents. The irony is as a result of the road construction, during the 70s, young radical pioneers looking for an alternative life style due to the horrors of the Vietnam War moved to Vermont, started organic farms and transformed the political character of the green mountain state. The unique print, inspired by common period designs, creates a pattern of house after house that is being viewed by a governing authority without the awareness or permission of the owner.

Biography:

Sara Farrell Okamura is a resident of North Adams MA and a graduate of the

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA. She has exhibited work locally, nationally and internationally. This includes exhibitions in Chicago, New York, Boston, Washington D.C. Mexico and Japan. She has been the recipient of grants including, but not limited to the Illinois Arts Council and the A.R.T. Fund sponsored by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. Further, she has exhibited work at the International Print Center in New York, Thompson Giroux Gallery in Chatham, New York, The Whitney Center, Pittsfield MA and Gallery 51, North Adams, MA

In addition, she was co-director of 1935 Gallery in Chicago, curating over 35 exhibitions in 3 years including exchanges with artists from San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas Mexico, was a staff member at Kidspace in MASS MoCA , North Adams MA, and was founding executive director of Northern Berkshire Creative Arts, a community based hands-on arts center on the campus of MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA. Okamura was also the School and Teacher Program Manager at Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield MA.