

Donna Wynbrandt

Bennington, USA 1960s

India ink markers, color markers, gel ink

September, 2018

Opening bid: \$200

Artist's Statement:

In the 1960's, though I wasn't in Bennington, Vermont, I was in step with the most radical movements of day. Bennington College represented THE kind of avant garde institution to which progressive parents proudly sent their offspring to be cultivated as leaders. The college's reputation permeated popular culture as evidenced by Robert Mitchum's 1960s film character telling his fellow mogul, "My daughter is going to Bennington College."

When Bennington Museum invited me to participate in this exhibition/auction, curator Jamie Franklin passed on images from the museum's collection, which represented some of the artistic and cultural events of the area and era. From this material, I gathered strands tying the microcosm of Bennington to the macrocosm of the nation. In the 1960s non-representational art swirled in controversy, and farmer Tenney's self-immolation drew attention to the massive interstate system, first envisioned as a transportation system for possible armed services deployment. The groundbreaking Nixon-Kennedy televised presidential debates woke up citizenry to the importance the visual impact of television would play in our lives. The Vietnam War transmitted images from half way around the world. The images I use in my art work, images of the 1960s, stand as old friends of mine. I remember studying them fifty years ago when they instantly entered the national consciousness. These images burst into view, embodying new ways of thought.

This assigned theme, "Peace, Love, and Harmony: Vermont in the 1960s," fell into

organization at once. I drew an outline of the lower '48 bounded by the oceans and dropped in the images. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Museum for drawing out of me this work of which I'm so proud.

Biography:

Once upon a time, the time being 1992, an award-winning artist began producing art work in a spirit of dilligence. She won favor with many who drew good feelings from the images they saw and sometimes purchased. She continues to this day, presenting scenes that attempt to manifest egalitarian realms where creatures from dragons to humans interact and meet.