

# Julia Zanes

*The Good Eye*, 2015

23 X 29 inches

Gouache and Watercolor on Antique Paper

*Opening Bid: \$850*

## **Artist statement:**

The Good Life and The Good Eye

This piece is from a body of work I made in 2015 called “The Good Eye”. I was deeply inspired by a book of Ethiopian scrolls called “Art that Heals”. The scrolls were/are made for individuals and used as household healing devices: you get sick, unroll your scroll, hang it up, thus enlisting its medicinal properties, and you get well. I thought we could use a bit more of that approach in our culture, and I knew that I personally wanted such objects in my own life, and in my home. Apotropaic objects such as this are often called ‘evil eye’, but obviously since its purpose was to keep dark forces at bay it should be called “The Good Eye.”

I was born in New Hampshire in 1963, but the spirit of 1960’s Vermont did occasionally reach our shores. My mother was a photographer and a disciple of Lotte Jacobi, the German photographer who spent her last years in New Hampshire. My mother and Lotte shared a birthday, and had big celebrations which drew in many of Lotte’s friends. The Nearings - who could be credited with altering the face of Vermont - were old friends of Lotte’s and they crossed the border and attended these events.

Years passed, Lotte was predeceased by her son, and she died in 1990. Somehow, I ended up with her etching press and a lot of very old paper. This painting is on a piece of that paper.

## Bio

Julia Zanes was born and grew up in New Hampshire. She attended Bennington College for one semester, and went on to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, graduating in 1988. She was launched with a traveling fellowship into the

world of art making and survival. She lives with her husband Donald Saaf in Marlboro. Their two sons Isak and Ole are now grown.