

Phillip Godenschwager grew up in a military family, moving often and traveling around the world for the first quarter of his life. Art, particularly drawing, has become the one constant in his life. He graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Graphic Design and has spent the last 35 years working in illustration, packaging, architectural drawing, sculpting, and stained-glass fabrication. While his eclectic and broad, creative base informs his current art-making, his work has always been centered on social and political commentary. He lives in Randolph, Vermont.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

The impact of development issues on the future of Vermont was the driving focus throughout the process of making my six paintings for this project; these include three, acrylic pieces, on board, and three, bas-relief sculptural works, carved from urethane foam, covered with a tough, thermoformed plastic, and painted with acrylics. These works incorporate ideas culled from real Vermonters and their concerns, as they struggle with issues their communities face every day. The big question is: how do we grow Vermont's future while preserving the unique, rural environment and rich heritage that so many have worked so hard to preserve? This state and its people will have to reach deep, continually, to provide creative and sustainable solutions for the direction Vermont must take in the 21st Century.

Such is the mission and purpose of the ART OF ACTION project—a step outside the box, allowing a different set of voices (artists' voices) to be heard and to share a unique perspective that may unlock the mind in ways that a simple explanation cannot. Through these works, my hope is that Vermonters will be provided with a key to thinking about their future in a manner that might have been otherwise inaccessible. If people can come away from this exhibit with new insights and an expanded awareness then our work will have been a success; and the effort of all involved may be expressed as time well spent.