

**Susan Abbott** graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a BFA and MFA in painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Since that time, she has worked as a professional artist, exhibiting in galleries and museums around the country, with her paintings being represented in numerous corporate and individual collections. Her work has been featured in several publications, including *American Artist*, *International Artist*, and *Watercolor Magazine*. She has been a recipient of Creation Grants from the Vermont Arts Council and the Maryland Arts Council. She lives in Marshfield, Vermont.

#### ARTIST STATEMENT:

"Why do I love living in Vermont?" That question was the starting point for my ART OF ACTION project. The answer would be my vision of Vermont's future. After all, who wants to see what they love destroyed? Working from drawings, photographs, memories, and imagination, I began to create a visual inventory of our 'elements of place,' the fundamental landscape and cultural features that, for me, are the heart and soul of Vermont.

I decided to explore four natural elements (Mountain, Forest, Field, and Water) and four that Vermonters have shaped within our environment (Road, Home, Farm, and Town). Since the seasons transform our Vermont landscape, each element is imaged in fall, winter, spring and summer.

My hope is that these paintings are like glimpses, down a village street, across a field, toward a mountain, that make us pause a moment and feel some peace, joy, contentment, gratitude, to be living here. Each of the eight "Element" paintings is paired with a panel depicting another view, down an imagined road of Vermont's future—a darker road, one that most of us pray will never be taken. I moved here from a place that was transformed, during my youth, from healthy farms and vital small towns to strip malls and congested suburbs. I'm hoping that by 'seeing the essential Vermont' in my ART OF ACTION paintings, viewers will feel, once again, why they love living here and be inspired to preserve and protect our vulnerable landscape and beloved way of life.