

Annemie Curlin, a native of Austria, came to live in Vermont in the early 1970s. She studied art in Bordeaux, France, as well as at Hunter, Vassar, and Goddard Colleges, and earned an MFA in Art Education and Printmaking at the Rhode Island School of Design. She taught art at the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Trinity College, and Union Institute. For the last six years, she has devoted herself entirely to painting. In addition to having her work exhibited at the Vermont State House, Firehouse Gallery, and Trinity College, she has a permanent installation at the Rutland County District Courthouse. She lives in Charlotte, Vermont.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Art serves many purposes, from self-involvement and self-examination to that which reflects life or aims for something even higher, still—to change society. Where the artist fits into this equation depends on his/her philosophy, inclination, and life circumstances. I choose gratitude, celebration, and a path that ensures the continuity of all life on earth. I create art that reflects ceremonial acts, community, and love of place. I do, however, have deep apprehension about our collective future, and this also finds expression in my art.

We are wreaking unfathomable destruction on the planet, using resources beyond Earth's capacity for self-renewal; and, in my heart of hearts, I am pessimistic about our collective will and resolve. The ART OF ACTION project is a search for hope—hope against despair—that there are enough restorative new shoots, which may alter the trajectory of the curve from destruction toward life. These artworks explore some of these new shoots, showing positive possibilities and/or actual situations.

In relation to the Vergennes artwork, I asked many people, there, "If you could change anything for the better in Vergennes, what would it be?" Their answers indicated that they seek beauty, community, and economic justice. The Addison County artwork explores the dilemmas of undocumented migrant workers and the renaissance of local-food production. The Intervale artwork shows how food production impacted the local Burlington economy, as well, highlighting the extraordinary transformation of a formerly neglected and degraded part of the city, into a rejuvenated and flourishing one.

I found plenty of new shoots growing in Vermont. I believe this project nourishes them.