

Gail Boyajian received a degree in Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and practiced as an architect for many years, in both Boston and New York. She now teaches Architecture at Phillips Academy, in Andover, Massachusetts. Her paintings reflect her love of nature and interest in the environment, particularly how human uses shape the landscape. Since her mother's family has been in Vermont for many generations, Gail has spent time every year of her life, except one, in Strafford, Vermont, where she has witnessed profound changes in land use and population. Given her interests and background, she feels well-suited for this project.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

My paintings for the ART OF ACTION are capriccios, or imaginary views. They are connected to each other as a thematic progression through the landscape. Three of the paintings can either be seen as a panorama or individually: a high meadow includes a marsh; a stream, from the marsh, runs through a forest's interior to a fertile farm valley, where it flows into a larger river. The fourth painting is a panorama of a town center with that river flowing through it. The eight, small-bird paintings show native species that also appear in the larger paintings, but, in these works, the birds are shown in the environment to which they migrate, suggesting that their continued survival depends on many habitats and circumstances.

The process of developing the imagery for these paintings has raised many questions about the nature of speculation on the unknowable. This mystery is suggested by unlikely juxtapositions and various threats lurking in the shadows and in the distance, such as invasive species, new transportation systems, various towers, and other technological structures, which seem perhaps less definite when partially obscured. I have included people and creatures that have inhabited this landscape, in the past as well as the present, framed by the bird and insect pollinators and other native species of this environment.

This extraordinary project has made it possible for me to bring together my deep love for this landscape, my interest in the fragile natural environment, and the opportunity to share my work with a diverse and sympathetic community.