

Valerie Hird was born in Massachusetts but grew up in Waterford, Vermont. She received a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, in 1978, and an MFA from Vermont College, in 2007. She is an Adjunct Professor of Art at St. Michael's College. Her recent work includes an exhibition at the Tampa Museum of Art, in Tampa, Florida, and a web project that executed the drawings and animation for "Maiden Voyages." Since the early 1990s, she has been represented by the Nohra Haime Gallery, in New York City, and is also represented by the Lucky Street Gallery in Key West, Florida. She lives in Burlington, Vermont.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

The twelve, mixed-media paintings, in *The Vermont Book of Hours*, are a month-by-month narrative of how Vermonters could evolve a sustainable future. Each month examines an aspect of community that is familiar and accessible but has been altered, in order to accommodate newly-envisioned, social-support systems as well as new energy and information technologies. Each painting is covered with a celestial dome, like its medieval predecessor. However, the zodiac has been replaced by the outlines of North-American endangered species and change with the seasons. The calendar has also been altered to reflect a monthly, pollution index.

When interviewing Vermonters for this project and researching relevant images, I specifically looked for examples in which traditional frugality suggested practical solutions for our future. By making the most of recycling—that is, taking existing systems and integrating them with new technologies—hybrid and sustainable results begin to emerge. Each month illustrates what these solutions might look like. On a large scale, neighborhoods are re-envisioned to accommodate multi-ethnic and multi-generational populations; and, on a small scale, bathtubs, barrels, and plastic bins are recycled to use as planters by the urban farmer.