

# Art in State Buildings Program



Caledonia Courthouse, St. Johnsbury: *When Paths Cross*, Digitized Photo Collage Artist: Michael Sacca 2001



# Mission

Cultivate and advance the arts and creativity throughout Vermont.

The sculpture honors the native history of Vermont's waterways and represents the creative feminine energy in nature. It symbolizes the Fish Culture Station's mission as a steward of healthy waterways in Vermont, by embodying the confluence of biology, conservation, and outdoor recreation.

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



Fish Culture Station, Roxbury  
*The Origin of the River*  
Granite sculpture  
Artist: Sean Williams  
2020







In 1988 the State Legislature passed the Vermont Art in State Buildings Act which allocates \$50,000 annually to enhance capital building projects through the acquisition or commission of site-specific artwork by Vermont artists

VT Forensics Lab & Department of Public Safety, Waterbury

*Art Meets Science*

Glass banners and landscaped seating area

Artists: Dan Gottsegen and Terrance Boyle

2012

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



## The Program

- enhances our cultural & working environments
- provides artistic enrichment for Vermont citizens and visitors
- supports and promotes the work of Vermont artists

Hebard State Office Building, Newport

*Wind, Water, and Wood*

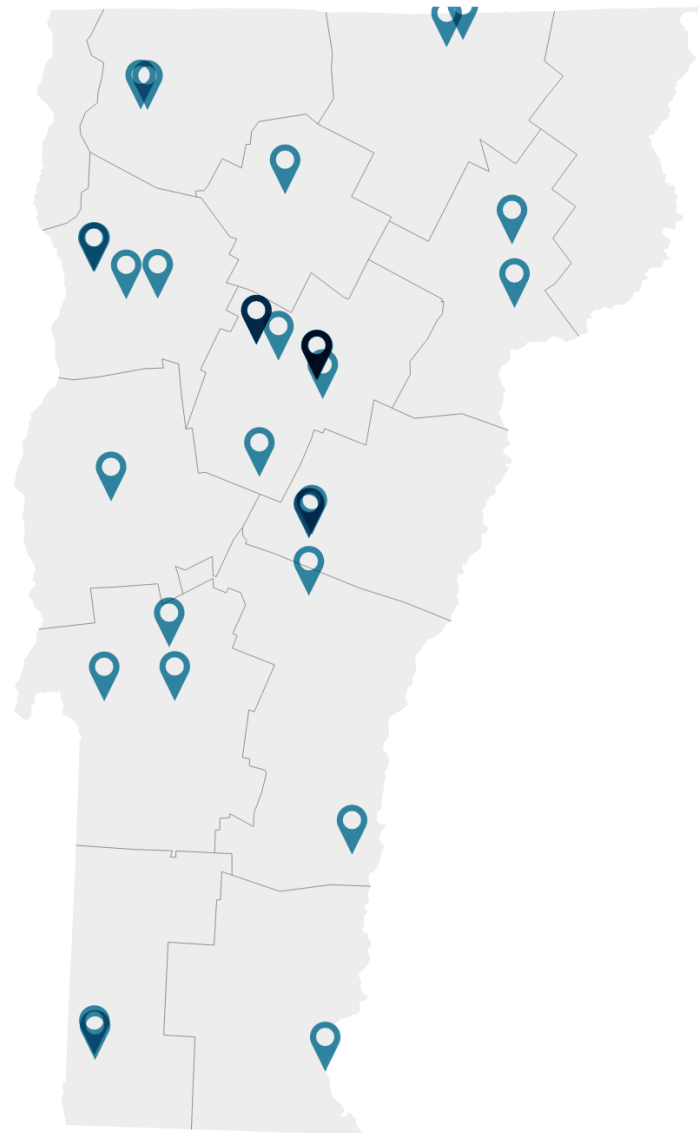
Birch Leaf sculpture, Photography installation, Granite Trout Sculpture and Salmon weathervane

Artists: Andrea Wasserman, Elizabeth Billings, Jeffrey Sass, Michael Sacca, Eric Oberg  
1999

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



Locations of completed  
Art in State Buildings  
projects as of  
February 1, 2023



The program has installed  
works of art from over 60  
artists in 34 state-owned  
facilities and public spaces  
across Vermont

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)

Created with Datawrapper





# What is Public Art?

Public art can include murals, sculpture, memorials, integrated architectural or landscape architectural work, community art, digital new media, and even performances and festivals! – Americans for the Arts



Courthouse and State Offices, Bennington  
*Unanimous* and  
*Differentia Opinionis*  
Kinetic sculptures  
Artist: Gordon Auchincloss  
2014

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



# Why Is Public Art Important?



Agricultural &  
Environmental Lab,  
Randolph Center  
*Big Frog*  
Bronze sculpture  
Artist: Jim Sardonis  
2019

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



## Economic development and cultural tourism

Stimulates economic development and encourage cultural tourism by attracting visitors



Northbound I89 Rest Area, Williston

*Bygone Plow*

Steel sculpture

Artist: Lynn Newcomb

2004



Engage community members in a civic dialogue, providing citizens with an opportunity to articulate what's important to them about their community

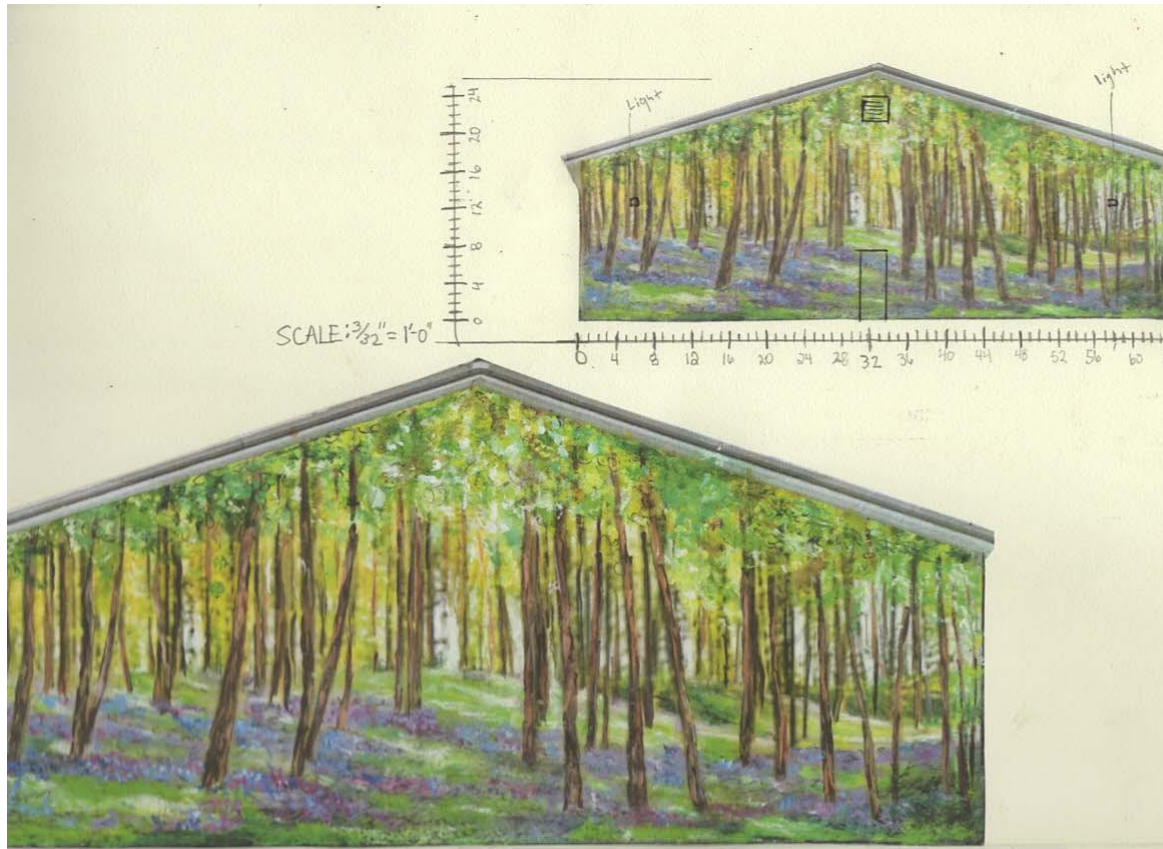
## Social Connection and Community Engagement



Forensics Lab and Department of Public Safety, Waterbury Community brick carving project after Tropical Storm Irene  
Artists: Dan Gottsegen and Terrance Boyle  
2012

Creating interesting, beautiful places/spaces in our community provides incentives for peoples to get out, get physical activity, and often feel safer in their environments

## Public Health and Belonging



Department of Mental Health  
Recovery Residence, Essex  
Mural design for exterior of gym  
Artist: Kathryn Wieggers  
Estimated installation April 2023



Educational opportunities to expand knowledge and understanding of the place

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)

## Educational Opportunities



Vt Fire Academy, Pittsford  
*Tools of Command*  
Anodized aluminum wall sculptures  
Artist: Gregory Gomez  
2012



## Enhance Civic Pride

Sharing unique stories about your community through public art can create a sense of attachment and connection to the place

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



Public Safety Facility, St. Albans  
*Industry and Activity*  
Oil paintings  
Artist: David Brewster  
2007



# Commissioning Process

- Project site is identified
- Local art selection committee identified
- Call to Artists distributed
- Artist(s) selected



Family & District Courthouse, Brattleboro  
*The Wondrous Chant of the Grey Brown Bird*  
Stone relief carving of bird and tree etched in windows  
Artists: Julia Zanes and Donald Saaf  
2010

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)





Public Safety Facility, Derby  
*Summer Night*  
Oil painting  
Artist: Elizabeth Nelson  
2003

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)

## Commissioning Process

- Art Designs developed and finalized
- Final Art Designs approved
- Fabrication & Installation



State Office Building, Springfield  
*Comptu Falls*  
Oil painting  
Artist: Robert Carsten  
1998







Artist Gordon Auchincloss sharing a few words at the celebration.

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



Reception at the  
State Office and Family Courthouse, Bennington  
Artist: Gordon Auchincloss  
2014

**CELEBRATE!!**



## Program Goal: Site Specific

Artists create “site specific” permanent installations of artwork that connect to the community, and/or the work being done at the site.



*This wall relief honors Springfield's heritage as a machine tool center. The piece is composed of actual "real" wooden patterns and ball bearing gears donated by Bryant Grinder, Fellows Corporation and Jones & Lamson companies.*

State Office Building, Springfield

*Work Patterns*

Collage of wooden tool molds and patterns

Artist: Jim Florschutz

1998

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)





## Sample project

*The horse has been an integral part of the military since ancient times. This sculpture represents a Morgan horse, a breed developed by Justin Morgan who lived with his family in Randolph, bowing its head in honor and remembrance of its lost companion.*

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



## Program Goal: Site Specific

Vermont Veterans Cemetery,  
Randolph Center

*Honor*

Bronze sculpture

Artist: Karen A. Petersen



## Green and Gold

By Jean Killary

Birches  
In the wind sway  
Fragile, white and slender,  
With little leaves of antique  
Gold.

Birds fly  
From tree to tree  
So you cannot tell where  
The birch leaves end and  
finch's gold  
Begins.

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



Vermont Agency of Human Services, Waterbury  
*Green and Gold*  
Mural  
Artist: Sarah-Lee Terrat  
2015

## Program Goal: Site Specific

*Inspired by the poem "Green and Gold," written by former Vermont State Hospital patient Jean Killary. Jean's poem, with its emphasis on fragility and simplicity, are a fitting metaphor for the relationship between the hospital complex and the greater communities of Waterbury and the State of Vermont.*



Early involvement by the artists in the design process provides opportunities to integrate artwork into the physical building and/or to plan for footings, support, and lighting of the artwork etc.

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



Addison County Courthouse, Middlebury

*The Essence of Addison County*

Marble floor

Artists: Lawrence Lazarus & Alan Pratt

1995

**Program Goal:**  
**Early artist engagement**



# Summary of Primary Statute Changes

- Increase amount from an annual limit of \$50,000 to minimum of \$75,000 per fiscal year
- Setup funding as a line item in the capital budget each year
- Clarify that art budget cannot be used for site preparations such as footings, lighting etc.
- Addition of the State Curator as a member of the Art in State Buildings Legislative Advisory Committee



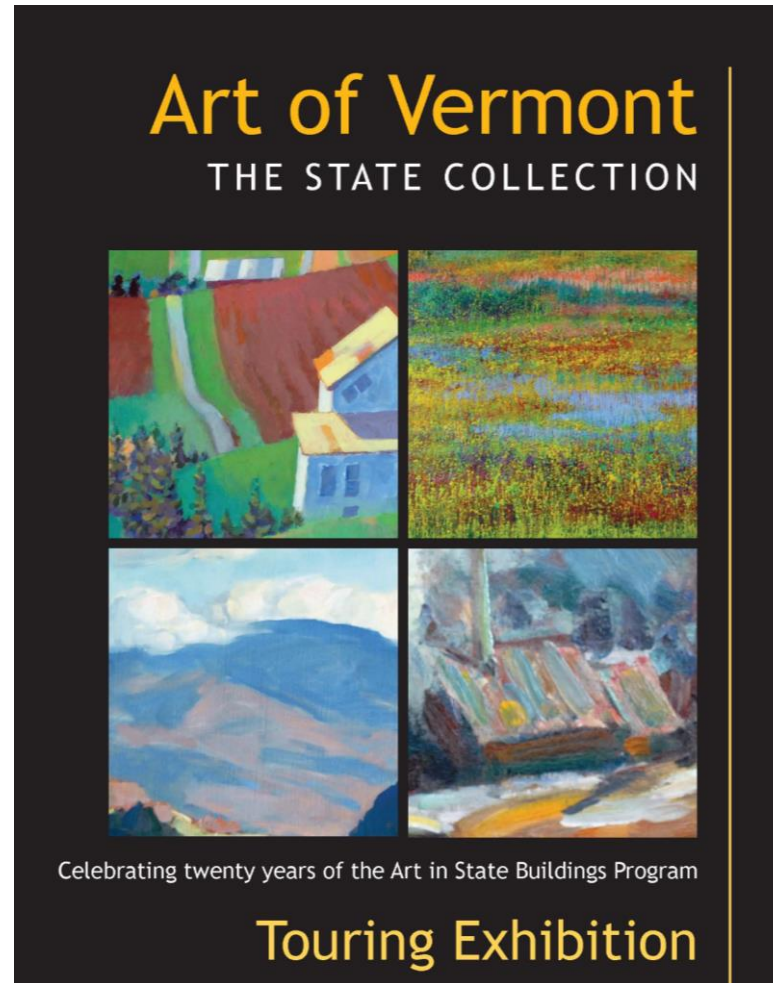
Vermont Psychiatric Care  
Hospital, Berlin  
*Otter*

Stone Sculptures  
Artists: Chris Miller  
Ryan Mays  
Heather Milne Ritchie  
Gampo Wickenheiser  
2014

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



# Art of Vermont: The State Collection



Catalogue Cover from 2008 traveling exhibit of the State Art Collection



[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)



# THANK YOU!

Contact:

Michele Bailey, Senior Program Manager

Vermont Arts Council

802.402.4614

[mbailey@vermontartscouncil.org](mailto:mbailey@vermontartscouncil.org)

Vermont Health Department, Burlington

*Photography Installation*

Silver gelatin photography print

Artist: Nakki Goranin

1998

[vermontartscouncil.org](http://vermontartscouncil.org)

