



State of New Hampshire

MAY 19 '21 PM 2:22

Department of Labor

Hugh J. Gallen
State Office Park
Spaulding Building
95 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
603/271-3176
TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964
FAX: 603/271-6149
<http://www.nh.gov/labor>

YOK
2A

Ken Merrifield
Commissioner

Rudolph W. Ogden, III
Deputy Commissioner

May 20, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Executive Council
State House Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 4:8, Gifts to the State, authorize the Department of Labor to accept a nonmonetary donation of artwork at a value of \$18,000 as estimated by the artist, Gordon Carlisle, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval.

EXPLANATION

Maine artist Gordon Carlisle would like to donate work that was previously commissioned by a New Hampshire business that is no longer able to host it due to building renovations. As the mural contains several scenes appropriate to the history of labor in the state, Mr. Carlisle contacted this agency as a likely recipient of such a gift. We anticipate transporting and installing the materials with our own staff or assistance from the Department of Administrative Services. Should any additional costs be incurred in transport or installation, the agency will follow all applicable state procurement policies. The agency believes the artwork will greatly enhance the customer experience when visiting the Labor Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Merrifield
Commissioner
Department of Labor

Gordon Carlisle
Mailing address: 111 Fore Road, Eliot, ME 03903
Email: info@gordoncarlisle.com
Cell: (603) 431-3639
Web: www.gordoncarlisle.com

5/19/21

To whom this concerns:

My name is Gordon Carlisle. I've been a professional artist and muralist in the greater Portsmouth, New Hampshire region for forty years, and have an \$18,000 mural I'd like to donate to the New Hampshire Department of Labor. First, a little background.

In 1997, I was commissioned by a New Hampshire company to create a mural for their dining area. In envisioning the mural, I saw New Hampshire as a patchwork of elements, historical, industrial and natural, and wanted to bring a sense of all those into my artwork. I designed three separate panels linked by a colorful, patterned border, and entitled the piece, "Granite State Patchwork."

The mural enjoyed a twenty-year residency with the company who, when they began renovations, decided they no longer had room for the artwork. Ownership of the mural then reverted to me. It is temporarily housed in my studio, where it gets much acclaim from those who stop by. I really feel, though, that it needs to be out in public again, where it belongs.

Description

Totaling 180' square, "Granite State Patchwork" is made up of three separate panels, two of which disassemble for ease in transportation. All are 54" high, and vary in length.

"Industry" is the longest, at 54" x 240" (20', or 90' sq., total).

Subject matter: three vignettes of historic NH industry: logging, granite quarrying and shipbuilding.

"The Land" is 54" x 144" (12', or 54' sq., total).

Subject matter: a typical NH lowland marsh in winter, contrasted with a view from atop Mount Major.

"The Mills" is 54" x 96" (8', or 36' sq., total).

Subject matter: a vintage NH mill, as seen from both inside and out.

The colorful border surrounding each panel projects 1" from the wall.

I painted the mural in Golden Artist Acrylics on primed, wooden constructions, then varnished each panel for protection. In terms of routine maintenance, all that's required is an occasional dusting of the surface with a slightly damp, clean rag (no solvents).

Expenses

The value of this artwork is \$18,000, for which I have already been paid. As such, I am essentially donating the mural to the New Hampshire Department of Labor. As I'd be also donating my installation services, the only expense you'd incur is in helping me get the mural to your building and up on your walls.

First, I will rent a truck and drive the various pieces of the mural to your building, where I will be part of the installation team. Ideally, if you have one or two maintenance people on hand who can double as installation assistants (two would be best), all three panels of the mural can be fully assembled and installed during the course of a day. This is your least expensive solution.

In conclusion, I look forward to helping you provide a new home for my mural, which seems to me to be an ideal fit for the New Hampshire Department of Labor.

Thank you,
Gordon Carlisle, artist

GORDON CARLISLE

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Web: www.gordoncarlisle.com

Email: info@gordoncarlisle.com; gordon@gordoncarlisle.com

Phone: (603) 431-3639

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 1985–present I've completed 36 Public Art commissions across New England. Twelve of these have been Percent for Arts grants in Maine and New Hampshire, and one was a NH Community Arts Residency. Included among these have been commissions for hospitals, health clinics, veterans and nursing homes, colleges and schools, state agencies, discovery centers, restaurants, courthouses, a youth development center, a planetarium, a dance hall, a bank, a seafood export company, an investment firm and the cities of Manchester and Somersworth, NH. Additionally, I've participated in seven church and courthouse redecorations and reparations around New England.
- 1973–present Freelance Artist, offering a wide range of artistic services, including murals, paintings, portraits, graphic design and illustration, theatrical set design, sign painting and residential decorative painting
- 1984–94 Mural Works, Portsmouth, NH: partner, designer and painter of interior and exterior murals and decorative wall treatments throughout New England
- 1977–81 Street Portraitist, Rue St. Amable, Montreal, PQ, Canada
- 1973–75 Silver Brothers, Capitola, CA: partner, designer and screen printer; designing and printing creative commercial imagery on fabric and paper

SOLO ARTWORK EXHIBITIONS

- 1989-present Ten solo exhibitions from Maine to New Mexico

GROUP ARTWORK EXHIBITIONS

- 1981-present I've participated in 51 group exhibitions across the United States

COLLECTIONS

NH Department of Revenue, Concord, NH

Bates College, Lewiston, ME

Chubb Life Insurance Company, Concord, NH

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH

Deloitte and Touche, Boston, MA

Fidelity Investments, Merrimack, NH

Holland, Mark and Martin, Boston, MA

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

AWARDS

2007 NH Art Association's "Vision and Voice: Art as Social and Political Commentary": Grand Prize winner

2004 Maine Arts Commission "Good Idea Grant"

2003 NH Chronicle, WMUR, Manchester, NH (profiled as a mural artist)

1999 New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship

1997 The New Hampshire Creative Club Award for Creative Excellence
(in association with Brown and Co. Graphic Design, Inc., Portsmouth, NH)

1996 Graniteer Award (for best in NH advertising design, in association with Brown and Co. Graphic Design, Inc., Portsmouth, NH)

REPRESENTATION

CaFE (CallForEntry.org)

Cambridge Arts Council, Cambridge, MA

Maine Arts Commission, Augusta, ME

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, Concord, NH

UrbanArts, Boston, MA

EDUCATION

1973 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA: B.F.A., Printmaking