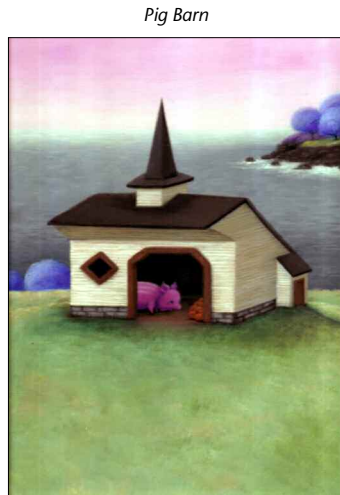


BILL LONG: Through the View

November 22, 2009–February 21, 2010



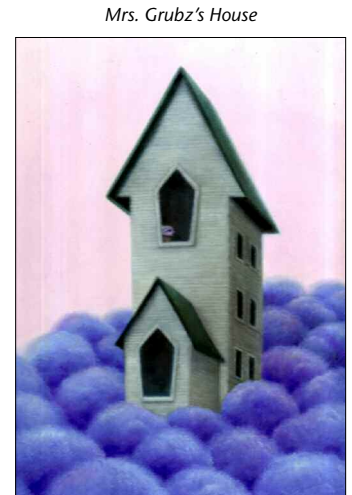
Birdhouse (Interior)



Pig Barn



Pig Barn (Interior)



Mrs. Grubz's House

AT THE BRATTLEBORO MUSEUM & Art Center, we spend a lot of time with children and adults thinking about and discussing what we see. Bill Long's illustrated book *Through the View* consists of a series of 32 colorful oil paintings that explore the idea of careful observation—with regard not only to what we as viewers see, but also to what the characters that “people” the pictures are looking at.

The painting *Birdhouse* begins the series with a close-up of a quaint sky blue birdhouse, perched on a gnarled, blackish tree. In the second painting, we seem to be inside the birdhouse, peering out alongside a bright red and blue bird as it perches on the side of its nest. Follow the bird's eye...

The next picture features a small white barn with a cupola that sits near the edge of a field beside the ocean. Inside the barn door we can see a pig and a pile of pumpkins. The fourth image shows the inside of the barn with a large orchid-colored pig smiling at tiny piglets hiding in the heap of orange pumpkins. Through the open doorway, we can see in the middle distance the tree with the birdhouse, and farther away a hilly landscape of puffy, blue-leaved trees. On top of a hill in the middle of a peppermint-pink sky rests a tall, thin, bluish house.

To be accurate in depicting the details of each view from other sites in the story, Long made a map that pinpointed each building and view so that the sequence and the placement of

all the images made sense. By the time we get to the wordless story's final image, *Birdhouse Bridge*, we have been introduced to worlds within worlds and wide-faced characters of various sizes and colors. We see the birdhouse again—and much more.

Through the View takes us on a visual journey of places that seem pleasantly “realistic” and others that are fantastically imaginative and cartoon-like. This contrast is reinforced artfully in many ways: a pattern of outside views next to interiors; small creatures and large characters; and complementary colors that are carefully orchestrated within the overall theme of cool colors: green, blue, purple and pink.

Besides the whimsy, humor, and contentment expressed in these paintings, other elements appeal to all ages. Young viewers will pick up on the idea of a story or game going on throughout the series. Older viewers may compare Long's very personal, contemporary style to familiar animated scenes and characters that hark back to early Disney movies.

Long's interests encompass Vermont landscapes and seasons, animation, music, and garden and architectural design, and it is easy to see these influences in his art. Like his wife, Kaori Hamura Long (who exhibited in this gallery in 2008), Bill Long extracts subject matter from his life to create his art.

Susan Calabria, Curator

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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Birdhouse Bridge

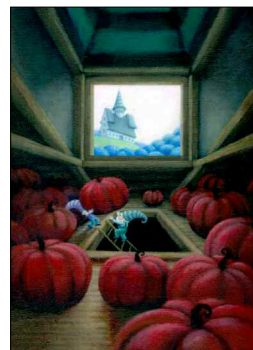
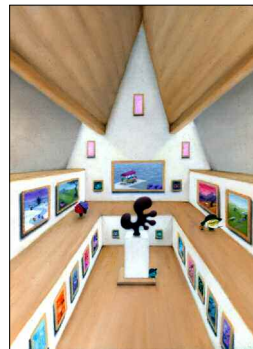
All works are dated 2009. Unless otherwise noted, all are oil on canvas board and measure 12 by 9 inches (height by width). They are on loan courtesy of the artist.

Birdhouse oil on canvas board	Salty Barn (Interior) oil on canvas board	Noodle Shop (Interior) oil on canvas board
Birdhouse (Interior) oil on canvas board	Toll Booth oil on canvas board	Aquarium oil on canvas board
Pig Barn oil on canvas board	Toll Booth (Interior) oil on canvas board	Aquarium (Interior) oil on canvas board
Pig Barn (Interior) oil on canvas board	Watermill oil on canvas board	Lighthouse oil on canvas board
Mrs. Grubz's House oil on canvas board	Watermill (Interior) oil on canvas board	Lighthouse (Interior) oil on canvas board
Mrs. Grubz's House (Interior) digital inkjet print	Joy Room oil on canvas board	Lighthouse View oil on canvas board 12 x 18
Pumpkin Loft oil on canvas board	Joy Room (Interior) oil on canvas board	Explorer's Ship oil on canvas board
Pumpkin Loft (Interior) oil on canvas board	Observatory oil on canvas board	Explorer's Telescope oil on canvas board
Guitar Cupola oil on canvas board	Observatory (Interior) oil on canvas board	Birdhouse Bridge digital inkjet print 12 x 18
Guitar Cupola (Interior) oil on canvas board	Museum oil on canvas board	Map digital print and paint
Salty Barn oil on canvas board	Museum (Interior) oil on canvas board	
	Noodle Shop oil on canvas board	

BORN IN PROVIDENCE, R.I., Bill Long grew up in Chelmsford, Mass. He recalls that he began to draw as soon as he could hold a crayon and began painting at age seven. After majoring in illustration at Rhode Island School of Design, he lived and worked in New York City for several years, moving with artist Kaori Hamura to Vermont in 2003. Together, the couple formed Moss Moon Studio. They jointly exhibit their work locally at Brattleboro's Gallery in the Woods.

Long cites as his artistic inspirations the works of Hieronymous Bosch, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Paul Klee, and Dr. Seuss. His television and movie credits include MTV's *Beavis and Butthead*, *MTV Downtown*, and Nickelodeon's *Little Bill* and *Blue's Clues*. Also a musician, Bill has released three albums as Blong.

(TOP TO BOTTOM) *Noodle Shop, Aquarium (Interior), Museum (Interior), Pumpkin Loft (Interior), Guitar Cupola (Interior)*



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Hours and Accessibility

Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesday and Wednesday except by appointment.

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

The Museum is wheelchair accessible.

An ASL interpreter for the hearing impaired will be provided if requested two weeks in advance of tours or programs.

Admission and Parking

BMAC members free
Adults \$6
Seniors \$4
Students \$3
Children 5 and under free

Parking is available in front of the Museum.

Museum Shop

The Museum Gift Shop, free to the public during regular Museum hours, features an assortment of cards, games, books, prints, and educational and gift items, including work of many local artists.

Group Tours

Docent-led tours of the Museum for groups are available by appointment. Call the Museum for information.