

You Can't Get There from Here (actually you can!)

Finally, after a few postponed attempts to visit my friends Richard and Nancy Weis I ventured into central Vermont to check out Richard's studio in Poultney and later attend Nancy's art opening in Rutland in the evening. Unfortunately my wife Karen had caught the "bug of the month" and didn't feel up to the trip so I decided to make the trip anyway, because maintaining friendships with fellow artists is an important support system for your own artwork and activities.

It turned out to be an easy Friday morning drive through a part of Vermont I had not been to before. The landscape, even in the late winter, was impressive from the two lane roads winding through the Green Mountains and farmlands in early March. Amazingly this year, the only snow to be seen was on the ski slopes as I passed by, and maybe a few spots in the shadows of the trees. From Walpole to Poultney is kind of a round-about trip which took me 75 miles west and north and northwest and south again... but March 4th was a beautiful, bright and mild day for a drive.

"Dick" Weis's studio is located in a large three story frame building on Main Street, not far from Green Mountain College where he taught art for many years. The third floor studio is occupied by two adjacent artist's studios, and is spacious and well lighted by large windows on two sides. As you can see by the pictures below, this loft-like studio is a busy place! It also has an unique storage area through a door on one end that used to be bowling alleys! The racks he has built there provide relatively warm, dry storage for hundreds of his paintings.

After having lunch with the Weis's, and spending some time at the studio, Nancy took off for Rutland in preparation for her show "States of Mind" at the Castleton Downtown Gallery (bottom of newsletter), and the two of us guys drove up to Rutland to check out some exhibitions there, including one of his own. On the way there we also stopped at Castleton College's Christine Price Gallery, and The Carving Studio & Sculpture Center in West Rutland.

Besides Dick's show in Rutland at the City Hall, we took in three other exhibits in this very active arts community. One very impressive work on display was an amazing 10 by 43-foot pencil drawing of downtown Rutland by Bill Ramage (who I was introduced to while in Rutland). His installation titled "Post Piero Ideal City" in on display at the Castleton Downtown Gallery II. (See below) A second was an Exhibit of Regional Artists at the former Sunapee Bank Building, now called The Castleton Downtown Gallery Annex.

If you live close enough, and are inclined to take a day trip through the mountains of central Vermont as spring approaches, I encourage you to consider Rutland which seems to be a town that is reinventing itself culturally!



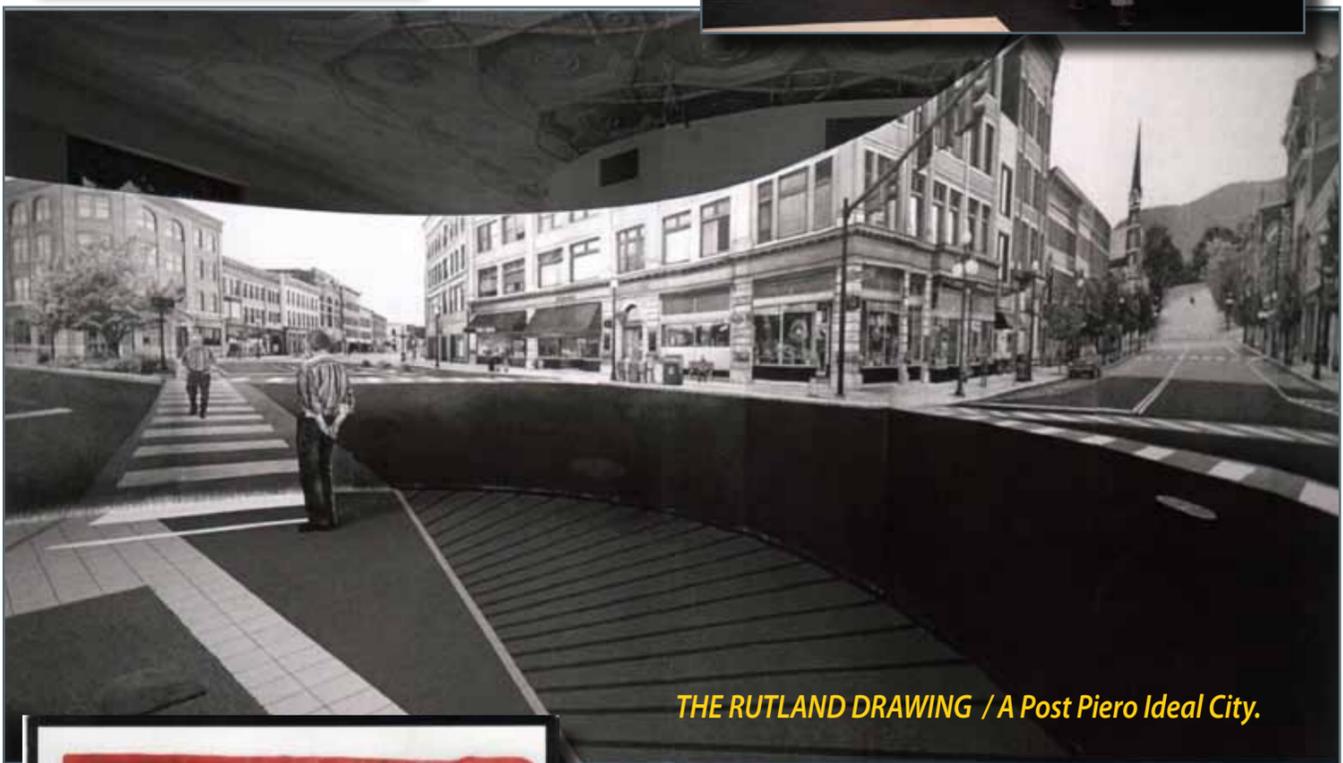
My friend Richard Weis's Poultney Studio (two views above) The Carving Studio & Sculpture Center Panorama with Dick in West Rutland (below)



Below, you see me standing in the middle of Bill Ramage's installation he names THE RUTLAND DRAWING / A Post Piero Ideal City. (After Piero Della Francesca's Ideal City painted in 1470) The pencil drawing made from 30 separate photographs taken from a single point using a tripod rotated section by section he has created a "Centripedal" image of the city using 30 individual vanishing points. There are 15 35" X 120" vertical drawings that are joined into a semicircular installation shown below the picture I am in. The drawn figure I am standing next to is a life size cut out of the artist, but he also appears three more times in the drawing itself.



In the Carving Center's 2016 Brochure I found this picture of our drawing workshop friend Linda Udd, a former student there! (left)



THE RUTLAND DRAWING / A Post Piero Ideal City.



NANCY P. WEIS STATES OF MIND

In the Castleton Downtown Gallery was a wonderful show of Nancy's picture box framed Mixed Media Collages (Above) and two installation pieces; one of which is shown opposite right. These meticulous and/or intimate little collages are like mindful meditations on the natural world, incorporating encaustic wax, embedded with everything from porcupine quills, to twigs, and numerous other small scale found items.

