

# Song of the Silenced

re-emergence of the entombed murals

Exhibited at La Muse en Goulette,  
Launaguet, France  
September 11 to 25, 2022

## Artist Statement

Images in flight. Paintings on the run. Two escaped murals. Art works censored by the Vermont law-school, have slipped through the digital interface. Fleeing to keep themselves from being buried alive; our murals which speak of the cruel enslavement of free men and women are being entombed by the Vermont Law School.

Hear the whole story. See this fugitive version of our murals which speak of the Abolitionists and their success in ending slavery. The *Underground Railroad Vermont and the Fugitive Slave*. Painted in 1993, open to the public for nearly thirty years. Our colourful version of this great social movement to end slavery as an institution in the USA, was forced underground, where we have digitized the images. Now, September 4, 2022, Our Underground Railroad murals are about to re-appear, as digital prints, somewhat shrunken, but in full-colour, at the Muse en Goulette, near Toulouse in France.

All the characters will be there including the images of thirty-two Africans who were captured in their- own-land and sold into slavery in the USA. Visit the slave market. Remember, the violence of "slave labour". See, the much-feared insurrection of the slaves! You will be face to face with Abolitionists; Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass and John Brown. All three will appear, as they do in the carefully covered paintings. Our out-spoken images have been silenced by a sound-proof wall at the Vermont Law School in South, Royalton, Vermont.

"Mr. Kerson, why did they build a sound-proof wall to cover your murals?"

- You will have to ask them, but I suppose they thought the colours were too loud.

See them all; Harriet Tubman leading young people on the path of the north star. See the milk-maid hiding the fugitives from the bounty-hunter. See the Quakers, in front of the state-house, helping the black family to mount a white-horse and continue their flight from slavery.



Banned in Vermont, not to be seen in the green mountain state, the first state to forbid slavery in its constitution, but on exhibit at La Muse en Goguette, Launaguët, France all through September, Thanks to Anais Barrachina, curator and director of this cultural center.

Also on exhibit, see the original lino-cut images used as designs for the large colourful paintings. The designer and painter of the URR murals, Sam Kerson will be on hand.

Kerson will be accompanied by Katah who has fought for and demanded the uncovering and free exhibition of the murals, during the two years they have been hidden from view. Katah will give a talk about the entombment of these unique works of Art.

Keep up the struggle, join us!

See for yourself. See with your own eyes.

*The Underground Railroad, Vermont and the Fugitive Slave.*

Participate in the fight for free expression and human rights.

Hats off to Fredd Lee and Kenny Hughes who were important creative partners in the creation of these murals and are now deceased.

And to Floyence Kennedy, civil rights attorney and American feminist activist, who was the keynote speaker at the unveiling of the mural in 1993.

Opening September 11, 2022,

*Song of the Silenced, the re-emergence of the entombed murals,*

these images in flight will be on exhibit from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

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