

Dear Vincent, I have drawn or painted him more than a dozen times. He has a wonderful face. I met him the first year he came to our area. Why didn't he come back to the Hudson Valley? His choice? The farmers' choice? What determines where these workers go? He occasionally calls me. One year he called me from a farm way upstate. He had to have his appendix out.

How does that work?

Who pays for that?

Is he getting good care?

Desmond, ah Desmond. He is 70 years old. He has very kind eyes. The men always get a print of what I have created. They usually seem pleased.

Is Desmond married?

Does he have a family back home?

Kingsley is a man of few words. I have brought him a bike to ride that someone gave me. I came upon 2 children's bikes which he shipped home to Jamaica for his grandchildren.

Have you ever seen people harvesting food?

"The Vinedresser" Mark is just about the only worker who will let me take a photo of him from this one farm. In the beginning several workers allowed me to take their photos, but not anymore. They are afraid.

What do you think they are afraid of?

Every time Terrance comes back, he gives me a bear hug. I have painted him several times. He has warm eyes and a broad smile.

What is his life like in Jamaica?

Have you ever picked apples?

Do you know where your food comes from?



Art is like a serum, transforming its audience for good or ill.

Familiar shapes in fields and orchards, migrant workers toil in the Hudson Valley doing jobs most Americans won't, earning modest wages, some-times risking deportation.

Hard at work, they summon our attention and invite us to come closer, to see their labor and their humanity.

Who are they? Can you see them?

It's possible for society to confer invisibility on a group. It's convenient; if the group is invisible, we relieve ourselves of concern about health care, working conditions, pesticides, housing, lack of ability to get their own food.

What is life like for them?

What role do we play in keeping them unseen?

My work can expand our perceptions of these workers. If only by their images in my paintings, the viewer will come to see these persons for the vital role they have in our lives.

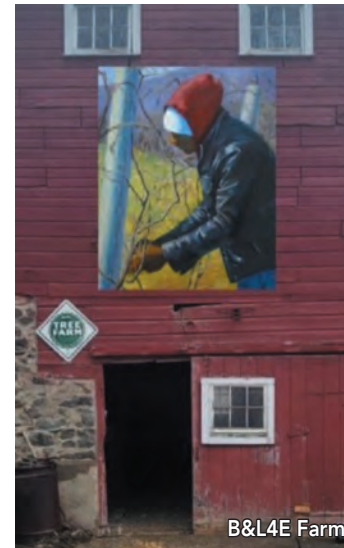
*indicates 2023

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HANDS THAT FEED US

***Part One 2023 and Part Two 2024 (Reaching Out)**



B&L4E Farm

561 Old Indian Road Milton, NY 12547

Barbara's studio is here/Studio visits welcome

BarbaraMasterson.com

Hands That Feed Us-part two 2024 Reaching Out is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Council on the Arts



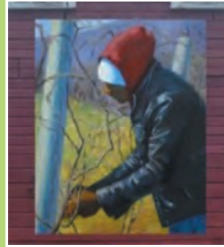
RTE 9W

3

RTE 208

MODENA

1



2

4



MILTON

HUDSON RIVER

RTE 32

RTE 208



10

5



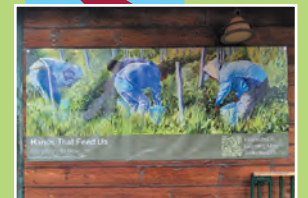
PLATTEKILL



MARLBORO

8

6



1. Wright's Farm
699 NY-208, Gardiner
2. B&L 4E Farm
561 Old Indian Rd, Milton
3. Locust Grove Fruit Farm
199 North Rd, Milton
4. Trapani Farms
700 Lattintown Rd Milton
5. Overlook Farms
Lyons Lane, Milton
6. The Falcon
1348 Rte 9W, Marlboro
7. Benmarl Winery
156 Highland Ave, Marlboro
8. Cracolici Inc.
Western Ave, Marlboro
9. Marlboro Mountain Construction
384 Bingham Rd, Marlboro
10. Quimby Farm
112 Mt. Zion Rd, Marlboro
11. Lawrence Farms Orchards
306 Frozen Ridge Rd, Newburgh



9

7



11

RTE 9W

