



Holstien [sic] and Proud Owner

Date

1987

Primary Maker

C. Lavern Kelley

Medium

White pine with enamel paint and plastic

Description

C. Lavern Kelley spent his life working on his family's farm twenty miles south of Cooperstown, NY. His work primarily consists of wood carvings depicting the farmers, animals, and farm equipment typical of 1940s and '50s rural America. His work is inspired by the

agricultural community that shaped his life. Although carving and modeling were hobbies from a young age, it wasn't until the 1980s when Kelley was in his late fifties that his wood carvings began to be considered of artistic value, to his own surprise. Hamilton College's Emerson Gallery, the predecessor to the Wellin Museum of Art, became one of the first institutions to exhibit Kelley's work in 1989. His work gained popularity and regard for its folk art character and resonant evocation of mid-century American farm culture. Kelley's carving are now considered a later incarnation of the American Regionalist style exemplified by the work of Thomas Hart Benton, John Steuart Curry, and Grant Wood (SOURCE: Wellin Museum permanent collection label, Summer 2016).

Dimensions

Overall: 12 3/4 x 7 1/4 x 18 in. (32.4 x 18.4 x 45.7 cm)