

## City of Birmingham Emerging Artist 2002

Annie Kammerer Butrus

Density Map Birmingham

21" x 35"

Gouache on Paper

2002

Emerging Artist Commissioned

Work of Art for 2002

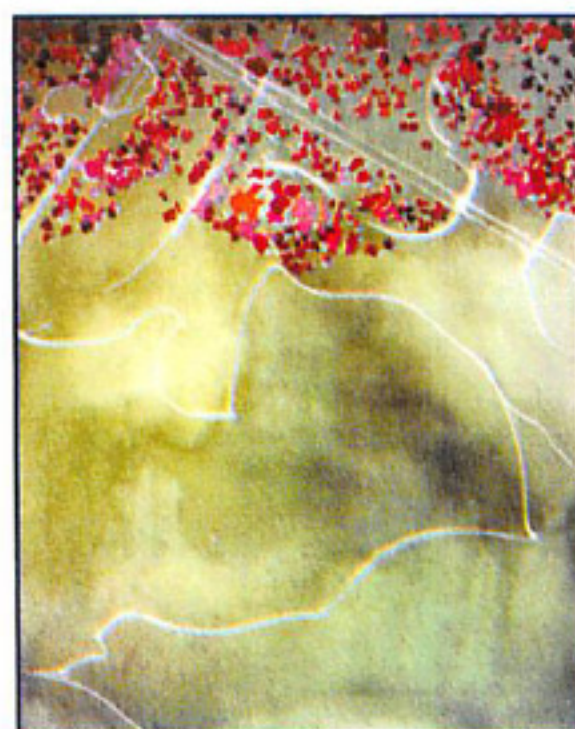


Density Map Birmingham

11" x 14"

Gouache on Paper

2002



Density Map Summit

11" x 14"

Gouache on Paper

2002

**ANNIE  
KAMMERER  
BUTRUS**  
Site #19

Written by:  
Michele Forman

*Documentary  
Film Maker*

Annie Kammerer Butrus is reconceiving the genre of landscape painting in her series Parade of Homes. Rather than the wide-open, pastoral vistas that are a hallmark of traditional landscapes, Kammerer Butrus is looking at the contemporary Metro Birmingham area from revelatory new vantage points: from the narrow gap between suburban houses to high aerial maps that encompass entire neighborhoods. The paintings provide both touchpoints to our familiar, everyday world, as well as epiphanies about the way our environment shapes our culture, our sense of community, and even our moods.

A transplant to Birmingham from Chicago, Kammerer Butrus has been exploring the new suburban world she finds herself in with an eye for unexpected beauty and a keen sense of disorientation within the sameness of the newly-constructed housing developments. The mix between appreciation and critique found in each painting is profound and affecting. Kammerer Butrus never allows herself or her viewers to be seduced into a smug cosmopolitan disdain for suburbia. Rather, she is interested in portraying the tension between the intimacy and love for a home of one's own and the alarm over sprawling, unchecked real estate development that threatens to transform the Southern landscape into a series of neighborhoods that could be found anywhere in America.

She captures the loveliness found within the most ignoble and insignificant spaces, as well as pointing out the haunting loneliness of an "everywhere/nowhere" community. The color palette ranges from the lyrical and romantic to the most alarming and confrontational, just as the compositional scale runs from the intimate to the grand. Kammerer Butrus is recreating the multitude ways we experience place in her landscape paintings: the view outside the kitchen window is juxtaposed with the land-use map of our entire city.

The painterly beauty of Kammerer Butrus' Parade of Homes series is paired with a conceptual heft that prompts fundamental questions about where we live and what we build.