

ANNIE KAMMERER BUTRUS



PARADE OF HOMES

The views chosen for these paintings were found in recently constructed subdivisions in the metropolitan Birmingham area which are featured attractions on the annual Parade of Homes real estate tour, but these images extend beyond the local and evoke much new construction in America.

Parade of Homes documents the new, ubiquitous landscape that ignores geographic location and topography. Here, fast-paced growth has a disorienting effect, and the clustering of new homes create instantaneous communities.

Conventional criticism of suburban sprawl expresses concerns which are shared in this series. However, in recognizing those concerns, *Parade of Homes* acknowledges that a driving force behind contemporary land-use is the pursuit of the American Dream- to own one's own home and improve one's own personal space.

The paintings reference the tradition of landscape painting by incorporating themes such as the framing of views and the spiritual division of ground and sky. In these paintings, the existing landscape screens the surrounding new construction which in turn acts as a visual frame by compressing the landscape. The new homes are massed and hover together without connecting to the earth they occupy. The use of red counters the "everywhere/nowhere" sameness of these residential dwellings. The ultimate concern in *Parade of Homes* is how the changing landscape impacts our lives, our sense of place, and our ability to feel like we belong somewhere.