Artist Gifts Her Hometown of Saugerties, New York, with a Printed Mural.

Heading southbound, just over the little red bridge in Saugerties, on the left-hand side, you will see a mural that reflects a painting by artist Rosemary Chase. The mural hangs on the back of a very charming, restored firehouse, built circa 1906.

Rosemary resides in Manhattan but grew up in Saugerties. She makes monthly visits to the area to see family and friends, and has shown her artwork there as well. She is the daughter of the long-time residents, Thomas and Rose Carpino. Rosemary graduated from Saugerties High School and earned her bachelor's degree in Product Design from the *College of Design* at North Carolina State University.

The original painting, titled "American Vogue Quilt" is featured on Rosemary's <u>website</u>. In November 2022, the first gallery to show the painting was at The Emerge Gallery and Art Space, once located in the village.



Photograph by Keith Hudak.

The painting was on display in two additional art exhibitions and has won talent and artistic achievement <u>awards</u>. The theme behind the painting highlights the resilience and determination of American pioneers. Much like the patterns found in quilts, these stories of perseverance, woven together, create a rich tapestry of both struggle and triumph. The nostalgia for tradition adds a timeless quality to the artwork, reminding us that *hope*, in its many forms, has always been an essential force for survival and progress. The underlying message speaks to the strength that comes from facing adversity with hope, and how that spirit has been passed down through generations.

Rosemary's diverse and creative background includes fashion & footwear design, fine art painting, repurposing furniture (she's a former winning contestant on the HGTV series, *Flea Market Flip*), and has years of real estate staging experience as well. She has enjoyed success transforming properties, mostly in Manhattan. It was with this particular skill set and creative eye that she noticed an opportunity to take her staging skills outdoors. For Rosemary, the Saugerties Bridge was on her mind once before, back in 2023 when she used a photograph she had taken for one shutter in a 20-piece collection of shutters turned into wall art called <u>The Shutter Project</u>. This particular shutter is called "*Town & Country*," and features the bridge.



Rosemary has driven over this bridge numerous times and realized that in the view, her eye was always drawn to the back of the firehouse. *I felt something was missing in this scenic arc coming off the bridge,* says Rosemary. She was not looking for a location to hang her painting; rather, she discovered a location that she believed her painting could serve as a suitable solution. While the goal was to meet a need, there was a motivation and desire for her work to be enjoyed by residents and tourists alike. And by advertising the meaning behind the piece, it is Rosemary's hope that this mural will speak to the eye of the beholder in a more personal way, as a visual reminder to never lose hope.

The firehouse, also known as <u>Casa Fuego</u> was revitalized and redesigned by Rebecca Falcon in 2021. Rebecca, together with her husband, operate businesses throughout the Hudson Valley including <u>Slutsky Lumber</u> in Ellenville, <u>Bashakill Bazaar</u> in Wurtsboro & <u>Liberty Street Liquors</u> in Newburgh.

To learn more about the story behind the painting and the journey to installation day, fill out the contact form at the bottom of this <u>page</u>. The artist wishes to give a special thanks to the owners of Casa Fuego, Rebecca and Jonathan Falcon, as well as Bob Lobdell, Frank Sasso, Randy Schumacher, Caine Simmons, and Keith Hudak.

"Hope kept the pioneers pushing through challenging conditions, and the horse played an essential role in making dreams come true by transporting these adventurers to their destinations." ~Rosemary Chase