

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, Eric Aho was born in 1966 in Melrose, Massachusetts, and now lives in Saxtons River, Vermont with his wife, photographer, Rachel Portesi, and their two children; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Aho showed a propensity for drawing and painting at an early age; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Aho earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston. He also studied at Central School of Art and Design in London and Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba. He completed his graduate studies in Finland at the Lahti Art Institute, where he was supported by a Fulbright Fellowship in 1991 and 1992 and an American-Scandinavian Foundation grant in 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1989, Eric Aho, who had trained as a printmaker, moved to Vermont to teach painting at the Putney School; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Aho has earned international recognition for his gestural, abstracted paintings of powerful, emotive, landscapes that evoke the natural landscape from a contemporary perspective; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Aho's *Ice Cut* series was inspired by the hole cut in the ice in front of a Finnish sauna, and explore landscape and abstraction, as well as Eric's Finnish heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Aho has helped advance and sustain the arts, and we Vermonters are proud to count you among our own;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim that

**ERIC AHO**

is the recipient of the Vermont Arts Council 2016 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 15th day of November, A.D. 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor