

**“EAT BETTER NOW!”** is a woodcut edition of 21 prints, 11 x 14 inches, a poster inspired by The Work Office (TWO), and fashioned in the vein of a *Works Progress Administration* public service announcement from the 1930s. The WPA, which was renamed the *Work Projects Administration* in 1939 and funded by Congress with passage of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions of people and affecting almost every locality in the United States.

I chose woodcut for its step-by-step process, which requires patience and diligence, and for the natural characteristics of wood- both aesthetically and symbolically. In contrast to the hard work Americans endured during The Great Depression, we now live in an age of instant gratification. The current economic downturn has jolted many who have not had to- or never learned how to- tap into their own resourcefulness. My hope is that today we can still see the integrity in commitment and perseverance: growing our own vegetables, cooking a meal from scratch, hand-writing a letter. In an age of modernity that is often frenetic, impersonal and complicated, I demand a return to the basics, to self-reliance, simplicity and modesty.

Today our food production has become corrupted and politicized; under siege by corporate greed. The way we feel physically and emotionally is partly a reflection of what we consume. How can we better ourselves, and subsequently, contribute to the greater good of society, in the midst of a financial crisis, while we don't know how or where to eat properly?

The prints I have made for this project will be posted around neighborhoods where there is less access to and education about healthier foods. I anticipate it will be welcomed by some and scorned by others. One week after I post my prints, I will return to investigate the communities' responses to them.

My investigation will be videotaped and posted on the Web. Stay tuned. You can also email me at: [noweatbetter@gmail.com](mailto:noweatbetter@gmail.com) or [marnachester@gmail.com](mailto:marnachester@gmail.com)

-Marna Chester  
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