

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

PROVIDENCE RI July 2021

PRESS RELEASE – for additional information and images, please contact Paula Martiesian at 401-521-7634 or at artsong5354@gmail.com. Attached image file: Isolation, oil on canvas 36”x36” by Frank Gasbarro.

PLEASE NOTE: Covid-19 protocols are in place at all BankRI locations and include the use of face coverings, social distancing and lobby capacity limits. Please do not visit the bank if you are feeling sick.

The BankRI Galleries present:

BankRI Turks Head Gallery: “Recent Paintings by Frank Gasbarro,” July 1 through September 1, 2021. The branch is located at One Turks Head Place in downtown Providence, RI. Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The branch is closed on weekends. For more information, call 401-456-5152 or check <http://www.facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland>.

MEET THE ARTIST – FRANK GASBARRO

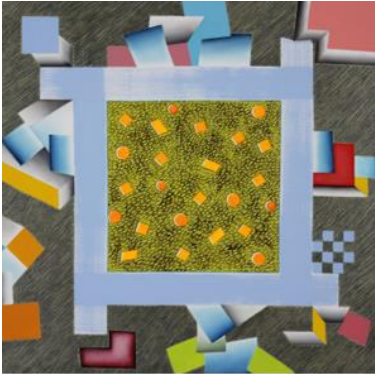
The house in Elmwood is a painter’s house. On the first floor, decades of paintings, prints and photographs line the walls. The second floor is dedicated living space, but it’s the third floor that is magical for it houses the expansive studio of artist Frank Gasbarro.

Gasbarro is a well-known, if elusive figure, in the Providence art world. His former studio on Snow Street in downtown Providence helped cement the city’s reputation as a cultural capital. At one time, his highly personalized iconographic abstract paintings electrified the walls of many businesses and galleries throughout New England. He has shown, sold and thrived as an artist.

Now in his 70s, Gasbarro has chosen a quieter path, one away from the gallery scene and most web-based platforms. He climbs the stairs to his studio daily, diligent and eager to work. There he loses himself in visual conversations with his large-scale paintings.

Largely self-taught, Gasbarro has developed a unique vocabulary of non-objective imagery which he contrasts with strong patterns and colors. Often the images look familiar – perhaps a shell, an egg or an eye – but upon closer inspection these objects are alien and unknown, existing only in a world of Gasbarro’s imagination. Occasionally the artist mines the real world for imagery, as he did with a series based on vegetables and fruit, but for the most part the objects in Gasbarro’s paintings are of his own making.

Consequently Gasbarro's paintings look unlike any other paintings that you might find in today's marketplace. He is speaking a language only he knows and trying to entice you to learn it, not an easy task for any painter. The life of an artist is often a solitary one, but Gasbarro's tenacious insistence on forging his own unique path isolates him even further.



The BankRI Galleries featured the artworks of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts contemporary artists and are curated by Paula Martiesian, a Providence-based artist and arts advocate.

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