

PROVIDENCE RI November 2016

PRESS RELEASE – for additional information and images, please contact Paula Martiesian at 401-521-7634 or at [roxie.rose@verizon.net](mailto:roxie.rose@verizon.net). Attached image: “View From Merapi” by Eran Fraenkel.

The BankRI Galleries present:

BankRI Turks Head Gallery presents: “A Personal Journey: Paintings by Eran Fraenkel,” December 1, 2016 through January at the BankRI Turks Head branch in downtown Providence at One Turks Head Place. Exhibit hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact [www.bankri.com](http://www.bankri.com) or call 401 574-1330.

#### MEET THE ARTIST – ERAN FRAENKEL

“There’s still an oud in my closet,” says neophyte artist Eran Fraenkel. The stringed instrument is a reminder of his days as a musician in a Near East ensemble. A trained cultural historian and an expert in the design and implementation of social change programming, Fraenkel has lived and worked in Belgium, Indonesia, Macedonia, Spain and Turkey. In 2015, after 22 years abroad, he and his wife moved to the United States to be closer to family. They settled on the east coast in Providence a short 45 minutes drive away from their daughter in Boston.

It was his daughter who inadvertently started Fraenkel on his journey as an artist. Although music was a constant part of his early life, Fraenkel had never worked in the visual arts. Passing through his daughter’s room one day, he noticed art supplies on her desk. “I wonder,” he mused. Soon he was busy experimenting and then he was hooked.

“I like this,” Fraenkel thought. “I don’t know what I am doing. I never had an art class, but I like this.” He was 57 years old and had just discovered the magnetic pull of the visual arts.

Living in Barcelona, Spain, Fraenkel was inspired by the designs and mosaics of Antoni Gaudi. He had always been drawn to Persian and Ottoman miniatures and Islamic art and architecture. Since his time in Turkey in the 1970s, the eastern visual arts traditions called to him and he responded.

Fraenkel’s pen-and-ink drawings reflect his deep interest in design. Flat planes of color are organized in shapes that suggest ellipses and triangles. Connected by lyrical lines, they dance in precision across the paper.

Other works are more painterly, richly colored with a clear influence of mosaics. These pieces are small and jewel-like, evoking nature without ever referencing it directly.

Fraenkel shares a studio in the Ajay Land building on Harris Avenue. He loves the quality of the light in the building and enjoys having access to the arts and artists that make Providence home. It is one of the reasons he and his wife decided to relocate to Providence.

As luck would have it, Fraenkel stumbled into the art scene almost immediately upon arrival in Providence. While house hunting, he and his wife stayed at two airbnb residences, first with

ceramic artist and yoga teacher John Fazzino and then with Shari and Zachary Weinberger, owners of the gallery at Sprout in the Rising Sun Mills complex. Now he takes yoga with Fazzino and has shown his work at Sprout. Fraenkel is pleased to make Providence his new home.

The BankRI Galleries are curated by Paula Martiesian, a Providence-based artist and arts advocate.

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