

PRESS RELEASE
PROVIDENCE RI March 2022

For additional information and images, please contact Paula Martiesian at 401-521-7634 or at artsong5354@gmail.com. Attached images: the artist at home with his paintings and “Pink Mountains,” a painting by the artist.

The BankRI Galleries present:

BankRI Pitman Street Gallery: “Remembering: Paintings by David Everett,” March 3 through May 4, 2022 The branch is located at 137 Pitman Street in Providence. Hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information, contact www.bankri.com or call the branch at 401 456-5160.



MEET THE ARTIST – DAVID EVERETT

City and country, urban and rural. These two often opposing viewpoints combine in one person, Providence landscape painter and urban planner David Everett. A city boy, he grew up with a deep appreciation for wild spaces on the borders of society. He spent many summers and weekends in northwestern Connecticut on family property that lacked comforts generally associated with modern living. Later, he spent six summers in coastal Maine captivated by the ever-changing connection between the ocean and the land, an experience that inspired him to paint. But the city of Providence was home and Everett began his lifelong balancing act between man and nature.

Everett doesn’t really remember a time when he wasn’t drawing. He took art classes, sketched and painted, and yet, when it was time for college, Everett opted to major in English as well as art. Eventually, his academic focus shifted to urban studies and later, environmental issues. His educational journey took him to upstate New York and New York City (New York University then Queens College). A stint at Save the Bay piqued his interest in an environmental perspective to urban planning, and then he was off to Cambridge to attend (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

In 1990, Everett graduated from MIT with a master's degree in city planning. Nomadic as ever, Everett worked as a researcher in Florida, housing planner in New York, small town planner in Massachusetts and Connecticut, speechwriter for Providence's most notorious mayor, and as a consultant. In 2005 he found himself working at the Providence Department of Planning and Development as a principal planner, initially in comprehensive and neighborhood planning, ultimately carving a niche for himself in environmental and coastal planning.

When Everett is not at work trying to make cities more resilient and sustainable, he is painting imagined landscapes in his basement studio on Federal Hill. Outside the small cellar windows, the view is anything but rural. Asphalt parking lots and chain link fences are interrupted only by small patches of grass and an occasional maple tree. But Everett draws inspiration from memory and from imagination.

Remembering is an imperfect skill. The mind often combines individual memories into one, enhancing certain details and minimizing others. So does Everett in his paintings. He is not interested in rendering every tree limb or blade of grass, rather he seeks to evoke the emotions of place.

His paintings have a magical, almost unearthly feel. The colors are often muted and misty, the compositions classic. But these paintings are not fairy tales, instead they conjure a dream world, a tangible map of a life to come.

Everett's ideal life includes living in a landscape much like his paintings, far from city streets and parking lots. Occasional forays into nature on the family farm and along the coast are not enough.

"My goal," Everett says, "Is to make this [painting] my day job. I want to live in a rural place where the subject matter is more readily at hand and I can absorb the landscapes that I see.

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

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