

PRESS RELEASE
PROVIDENCE RI September 2022

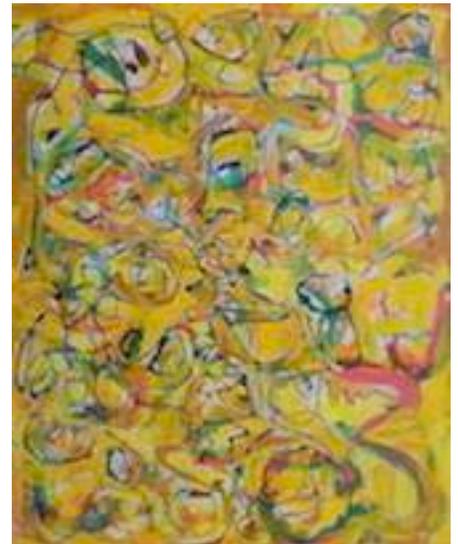
For additional information and images, please contact Paula Martiesian at 401-521-7634 or at artsong5354@gmail.com. Attached images: The artist in his studio and the painting *Puzzled Yellow*.

The BankRI Galleries present:

BankRI Pitman Street Gallery: "Paintings by Gregory Ricci," September 1 through November 2, 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 – GREGORY RICCI

Growing up in Little Compton, artist Gregory Ricci was a musician first. Classical, folk and alternative music filled his life while painting took a back seat. But something changed in the 8th grade. The young pianist picked up a paintbrush to help a friend paint a mural. From then on, painting came first.

Ricci, seeking a totally immersive experience in visual art, attended the Rhode Island School of Design, graduating in 1996. Now 48, Ricci continues to immerse himself in painting. His home studio in East Providence is filled with artwork, two keyboards and an electric guitar. Clearly Ricci hasn't given up on music and in fact, has some of his compositions posted to Bandcamp, the online music source.

Although music is a constant presence and other jobs pay the bills, it is painting that drives him and informs his life. At least twice a month he gets together with his longtime friend artist Dan

Talbot to paint from life. They paint, draw and have deep discussions about painting. Whereas Talbot often paints amalgamations of what he sees, Ricci taps his subconscious for his painting material.

“I weave a narrative in my work,” Ricci says. At first glance, the paintings appear totally abstract, but in-depth viewing reveals a more nuanced experience. Shapes come into focus, suggesting imagery familiar but not quite recognizable. Words appear and disappear, colors move in and out. Sometimes he appropriates random sentences from books and magazines, writing in cursive directly on his abstracted paintings.

Ricci’s paintings suggest a visual interpretation of how the human brain might work. A story is told using things both real and imagined, plucked from different time periods and diverse sources. Random writing, pre-associations, subconscious thought all come into play in Ricci’s work. Each painting is an assimilation of different parts, a narrative thread woven in and out of a picture plane suffused with color and line.

It’s important to Ricci that his work speaks to people and that it not superficial or shocking. “I want my work to have an emotional impact on someone,” Ricci says. “I don’t want to be raucous. I want to be ethical.”

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

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