

PRESS RELEASE
PROVIDENCE RI July 2023

PRESS RELEASE – for additional information and images, please contact Paula Martiesian at 401-521-7634 or at artsong5354@gmail.com. Attached images: Still Life with Palette and Large Gold Curry, oil paintings by John Riedel.

The BankRI Galleries present:

BankRI Pitman Street Gallery presents: “Still Lifes by John Riedel,” July 6 through September 6, 2023. 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, check bankri.com or call the branch at 401 456-5160.



MEET THE ARTIST - JOHN RIEDEL

The making of art requires dedication, skill and a curious mind. Providence artist John Riedel has those qualities in spades. Promoting art requires a totally different skill set, one Riedel has little interest in learning. Up until a few years ago, Riedel didn't even have a website and today he still ignores social media.

Riedel's abiding interest is painting and he spends most days devoting time to his chosen profession. His home and studio in the Fox Point section of Providence is jammed packed with fifty years' worth of oil paintings, pastels and watercolors – literally several hundred works of art. When he isn't painting, he is collecting art. Artworks by John Frazier, Florence Leif, Richard Merkin and others compete for wall space, as Riedel does not have room to display his entire collection.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Riedel's father worked for the U.S. Army and as a consequence, the family moved around. Riedel lived in seven different states from the time he was born until he graduated high school. His interest in painting came late in his teenage years. One day the fifteen-year-old Riedel found a box of paints in his mother's closet. He set up a still life and started painting. No art classes or inspirational teacher for Riedel. He "did it on his own." With some encouragement from his mother, he applied to the Rhode Island School of Design and was accepted. From then on in, Riedel hasn't left Providence and hasn't stopped painting.

Riedel's paintings are bright, vibrant interconnected still lifes. He is a throw back to the old-fashioned painter who works from life under natural light. Yet his works are not realistic; they are instead a distinct departure from what he sees in front of him.

Riedel sets up tableaus that contrast and connect 2 and 3-dimensional objects to form a unified whole. He manipulates space and color, combining reality with abstract color fields to create an atmosphere every bit as deep and dense as a tropical jungle. His deft use of color and unusual color palette make it worth a trip to see his work in exhibit or at his studio.

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



