

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The BankRI Galleries Present: Artist Ben Watkins at North Kingstown

Gallery Artist's "Various Sculptural Works" on display March 7th through June 6th, 2024. The gallery is located at 1140 Ten Rod Rd, North Kingstown, RI 02852.

Providence, R.I. (February 27, 2024) -BankRI Galleries is pleased to present work by Rhode Island-based artist **Ben Watkins**. Born in Kentucky, Ben earned his BA from Murray University and his MFA from RISD. Tucked into a woodsy cul-de-sac in Lincoln, Rhode Island Ben works from a spacious studio workshop with reverent, methodical attention to his large-scale works that inhabit the space between art & design. Woven wood pieces in ash, walnut & oak, both wall hangings and partitions, also function as furniture. Ben works on commission for residential and commercial clients and also shows his work in galleries. Here we're exhibiting pieces from Ben's ongoing sculptural series in wood and plexiglass.

For Ben, the defining feature of his work is the modest line. Ben's carved, drawn and painted lines are the gestures that articulate his objects and bring his sculptural forms to life. His materials are secondary to this recurring preoccupation of his artistic process.

The line for Ben has no beginning and no end; it is a decision, a verdict, an accommodation; an absence, a void and ultimately, a scaffolding for the architecture of his work.

"I think of a line as a timeline, one that affects space: it divides, defines, separates, and travels through a surface. I want the viewer to see how the line embodies an ephemeral moment of transition. For me, that moment is in the tiny microcosm of our individual cells all the way to the vast macrocosm of the universe."

With Ben's sculptural works that begin with a drawing then are fabricated as objects and assemblages, we discover this boundless expanse of time and space. Within the finite, in the precision of his accumulated lines and finely woven forms, the momentary becomes the infinite. We invite you to visit these inventive artworks by Ben Watkins installed in our Kingstown branch up through June 6th, 2024.

Branch hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, contact www.bankri.com or call the branch at 401-294-7737. Ben is also exhibiting work from his "Pangea" series at our Pitman Street Branch, 37 Pitman St, Providence, RI 02906.

The BankRI Galleries are curated by Willy Somma, an artist and arts advocate. For additional information and images, contact her at willysomma@gmail.com | 917-374-3262.

Attached image files: Ben Watkins, Gossamer, 2023, Axis Mundi, 2020, Ben Watkins, Studio, Lincoln, RI, Feb 2024

