

For Immediate Release

BankRI Galleries Presents Ben Watkin at its Turks Head Gallery in Providence

Artist's latest body of work, "Pangea," will be on display through July 1

Providence, R.I. (May 30, 2024) – The BankRI Galleries is pleased to present the work of local artist Ben Watkins at its Turks Head Gallery in downtown Providence. The pieces will be on display through July 1 at the gallery, located at One Turks Head Place.

Ben's latest body of work, called "Pangea," connects to a concept geologists hypothesized of a continent that existed 200 million years ago when the world's land masses were joined. Built from a continuous line in reds, blues, purples, and yellows, Ben's carved reliefs speak to this idea of interdependence with elliptical markings and color blocks nestled against a supercontinent etched in glass.

These works evoke both a wide view of the planet and a motley communal throng; and too, a micro one, recalling our biological protoplasm, the corporeal foundation of the breath and life we all share. A quote from Virginia Woolf's "Moments of Being" that inspired Ben in conceiving this series further elucidates this idea of our kinship with one another and our embodiment of the world, (and it's creativity) itself.

"Behind the cotton wool is hidden a pattern; that we—I mean all human beings—are connected with this; that the whole world is a work of art; that we are parts of the work of art. Hamlet or a Beethoven quartet is the truth about this vast mass that we call the world. But there is no Shakespeare, there is no Beethoven; certainly and emphatically there is no God; we are the words; we are the music; we are the thing itself."

Born in Kentucky, Ben earned his BA from Murray University, and his MFA from RISD. He works out of his studio in Lincoln, RI, as a furniture designer and sculptor. Employing materials such as wood, plaster, gold leaf, and glass, Ben's sculptures function as both art and design.

With the multi-colored assemblages in Ben's "Pangea" series, we see ourselves as part of a whole; humanity as a fluid, ever-changing, but essentially perfect universal design. As an artist, Ben invites all to see in these sculptural works, "the whole world as a work of art" and perhaps within that, seeing yourself.

Branch hours for Turks Head and its gallery are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit bankri.com, or call the branch at (401) 456-5152.

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The BankRI Galleries are curated by Willamain Somma. For additional information and images, contact her at willysomma@gmail.com or (917)-374-3262.

Attached image files:

Sundae, 2023

Ben Watkins at his studio in Lincoln, RI



