

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BankRI Galleries Present Ceramic Artist Cali Almy at its North Kingstown Gallery
Artist's works are on display now through September 4

N. Kingstown, R.I. (July 22, 2024) – BankRI Galleries is pleased to present work by Rhode Island-based artist Cali Almy at its North Kingstown Gallery, located at 1140 Ten Rod Road, North Kingstown. Cali's artwork is on display now through September 4.

MEET THE ARTIST

A native of Boston, Cali Almy holds a BA in Studio Art from the University of Vermont and an MFA from UMASS, Amherst. Cali has taught art in high school classrooms and community art spaces for more than two decades in Providence and the greater Rhode Island area. Cali most recently was an Artist in Residence at the Worcester Center for Crafts and has exhibited her ceramics at arts festivals and galleries around the world. Foregrounding community action, Cali also has worked with many educational and social justice organizations, cultivating activism and connection in all her endeavors.

To visit Cali's ceramic studio, with windows framing the Moorish landscape just outside, is to enter a laboratory of sorts. Taking root in high school thanks to an inspirational ceramic teacher, the medium of clay has been the focus of Cali's artistic output for decades, and yet still she approaches her process from a place of experimentation and awe, much like the way she walks through the woods.

"It was a beautiful summer day, and the spotty drizzle was refreshing as we crossed through the low growth forest and onto the salt marsh," recalls Cali. "Along the way I found a pine cone lying in the middle of the path. I picked it up and held it in the palm of my hand, enjoying the slight curve of its form, its rich green color and tightly knit pattern of scales; just the sort of object I would bring into my studio as a source of inspiration. As I continued along the trail, it occurred to me that what felt like something to take and keep for my own was also a seed that if left in this space could become a tree for many others. So instead, I said a little wish for the pine cone and tossed it back into the woods."

With this same wonder, Cali's studio practice emerges from her love of the New England landscape; its shapes, forms and colors. Recognizable patterns, both micro and macro views – of the coastline, a tree, moss, the marsh – guide her creative explorations abstract, and more literal too. She embraces the challenge of creating elemental constructions, both functional and purely sculptural and the dialogue between these intentions informs and complements her process. Whether glazing, firing, hand throwing or using the wheel, Cali's "clay bodies" explore contrasts: organic versus geometric, form versus surface, expressive versus simple, functional versus aesthetic. Soft, fluid or plastic; painted, printed or carved; using slips, glazing, and even finger painting to achieve results - the molded surface is a canvas for Cali's vivid imagination.

View these excellent artworks for yourself at the BankRI North Kingstown Gallery during the hours, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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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: Vine Incandescence, 2024; Vined Stack, 2024; Midnight Vine Vessel, 2024

