

Joint Venture

Original Print Portfolio

Participating Providence Art Club artists are Ruth Clegg, Wanda Perkowska Coderre, Angel Dean, David deMelim, John deMelim, Barnet Fain, Kendra Bidwell Ferreira, Carol Strause FitzSimonds, Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Elizabeth A. Goddard, Christine McIntyre-Hannon, Richard Harrington, Eileen Horwitz, Craig Masten, James Myette, Madolin Maxey, Arlene K. McGonagle, Elena Obelenus, Regina Partridge, Susan Patterson, Roberta Van Der Molen, and Elizabeth Bonner Zimmerman.

Torpedo Factory Printmakers Inc. was established in 1975 and has been a workshop/gallery where professional printmakers share facilities, materials and ideas while interacting with and educating the public about this art form. Located on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center (a complex of 82 studios, 165 working artists, 6 cooperative galleries, the Art League School and

A PORTFOLIO PROJECT WITH 5 EXHIBITIONS UNITING PRINTMAKERS OF THE PROVIDENCE ART CLUB AND TORPEDO FACTORY PRINTMAKERS

by Carol Strause FitzSimonds

The Joint Venture Original Print Portfolio Project provides artists from New England and Northern Virginia the opportunity to exchange work and engage in a creative dialogue of shared experiences, new ideas and techniques.

In 2012, the Providence Art Club (PAC) printmakers was planning their 3rd portfolio project, when the idea emerged to expand this project beyond Rhode Island and to partner with another established art organization. Project coordinator, Carol Strause FitzSimonds, suggested pairing with her former Northern Virginia studio. "I felt these two groups would work great together as the perfect vehicle to showcase each organization's artistic achievements and history."

The Providence Art Club was founded in 1880 by a group of professional artists, amateurs, and art collectors. What these founding men and women began is now a picturesque procession of four historic buildings, home to studios, galleries and the clubhouse. In 2007 a major building project added the first studio space dedicated to printmaking. With stunning examples of printmaking exhibited throughout by past members such as Eliza Gardner and Grace Albee, current club members are inspired to continue the club's strong printmaking tradition with classes in white-line woodcut, relief, monotype, collagraph and polymer plate printmaking.



Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, "Patterned Robe,"
Polymer Intaglio, 5" high x 7" wide

Alexandria Archaeology Museum), Printmakers Inc. Studio (#325) is a cavernous industrial space with a wall of windows overlooking the Potomac River. There are currently ten award-winning printmakers sharing this wonderful place as the center for their creativity: Penny Barringer, Judy Coady, Ruth Corning, Avis Fleming, Laura Huff, Kelly O'Brien, Norma Pfaff, Maggie Stewart, Priscilla Young and Carolyn Witschonke.

The artists chose Joint Venture as the title for this boxed collection of thirty-one small original handcrafted prints on paper sized 5 x 7 inches. The artists felt this small size format made for a more intimate connection between the viewer and the art – the prints fit perfectly in your hands and when boxed small enough to display on any coffee table. Although the

images vary in size, each is printed on archival quality paper within the set format in an edition of 45. The printmaking techniques range from traditional methods to newer 21st century UV polymer plates or archival inkjet. The types of paper differ according to the method of printmaking chosen by the artist. These prints were created exclusively for this project with only two proofs pulled by each artist for exhibition and individual sale.



Patrick Sargent, "Buster,"
Relief Print with Monotype and
Watercolor, 7" high x 5" wide

Portfoliobox, Inc., Warren, RI was commissioned to design and craft the 45 fabric-covered boxes. A limited number of portfolios are available for purchase at \$550. To inquire: Providence Art Club (401) 331-1114 or Printmakers Inc. (703) 683-1342.

The portfolio première exhibit opens in the Moitié Gallery at the Providence Art Club Sunday, September 7th and runs through Friday, October 3rd. This is the first in a number of events and exhibits planned. The portfolio will also exhibit at the Printmakers Inc. gallery in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, November 1st through Dec 31st. For 2015 the show expands to become "Joint Venture+" and opens in April at the Candita Clayton Gallery in Hope Artiste Village in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Now each portfolio artists will exhibit additional works, both prints and artist books - these works unlike the portfolio prints will have no size or form limitations. A variation of "Joint Venture+" show then proceeds to the Hoxie Gallery in the Westerly Library in Rhode Island, from June 3-26th. The Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, Rhode Island, will exhibit the final exhibit of prints and artist books September 25th through November 8th.



Ruth Clegg, "The Dance,"
Hand-colored Polymer Intaglio
and Relief, 7" high x 5" wide

For information about this project or the exhibits, visit www.providenceartclub.org or www.tfpi.org. Providence Art Club hours are Monday through Friday noon to 4:00 pm and weekends 2 pm to 4pm. Printmakers Inc. studio/gallery hours are daily 11 am – 5 pm.



Printmaker, book artist, instructor, and former gallery curator, Carol Strause FitzSimonds has exhibited her work at colleges, museums, and galleries around the world. Carol lives and works in Rhode Island. Her art is in numerous private and public collections including the Smithsonian, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Newport Art Museum and US Library of Congress. www.csfitzsimonds.com

www.providenceartclub.org www.tfpi.org
www.facebook.com/jointportfolioproject

JOINT VENTURE
a portfolio project
featuring the works of
thirty-one artists by
members of the
Providence Art Club and
Printmakers Inc.

Opening Reception
Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014
2pm - 4pm
exhibit runs through
Friday, Oct. 3, 2014

Evening Holiday Gala
Friday, Dec. 5, 2014
7pm - 9pm
exhibit runs
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, 2014

Providence Art Club
11 Thomas Street,
Providence, RI 02903
401-331-1114 ext. 5
www.providenceartclub.org
Gallery Hours:
Mon. - Fri. noon - 4:00pm

Printmakers Inc.
105 N Union Street,
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Phone: (703) 683-1342
Hours: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
www.tfpi.org