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RISD exhibit displays ‘Locally Made,’ survey of contemporary R.I. art

July 07, 2013 12:01 AM

Bill Van Sieten

On Friday, the RISD Museum opens “Locally Made,” its first major survey of contemporary art in Rhode Island in more than a decade. Featuring works by nearly 100 artists, the show will be divided into three parts: **one, featuring recent additions to the museum’s permanent collection, will be installed in the museum’s Upper Farago Gallery;** another, showcasing the work of local filmmakers and video artists, will inhabit the museum’s Spalter New Media Gallery; and a third, dubbed “One Room,” will present a series of live artists’ talks and performances on the first floor of the museum’s Daphne Farago Wing. Last week, we talked to four artists — two printmakers, a filmmaker and a performer/curator — who are participating in the exhibit, which runs through Nov. 3. (Note: A public opening for “Locally Made” will be held on Thursday, July 18, as part of the museum’s Design the Night series. Highlights include live music, performances and, last but not least, food trucks.)



Allison Bianco at the AS220 printmaking shop, is known for her distinctive techniques.

Printmaker Allison Bianco is part of RISD exhibit

The artist: Allison Bianco, 33.

What she does: Born and raised in Smithfield, Bianco is known for her distinctive printmaking technique which mixes elements of etching, intaglio and silkscreen. She has a bachelor of arts from Mount Holyoke College and a master's degree from the University of Hawaii.

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Some background: Unlike many artists in “Locally Made,” Bianco doesn't dabble in music, theater or performance. As a printmaker, however, she's as daring and wide-ranging as anyone. On the one hand, she's capable making a portrait or a landscape that's as finely detailed as any Old Master print or drawing. On the other hand, her prints are often shot through with rainbow hues of red, blue, green and yellow. Asked about the effect, which suggests a mash-up of Andy Warhol and Rembrandt, Bianco confesses that while she loves color she also loves the delicate lines and gray-tones she gets through the use of etching and intaglio. “So I just do both,” she says.

What's next: At RISD, Bianco will be part of an exhibit of newly-acquired works by local artists. In particular, she'll be represented by one of her largest works to date — a panoramic view of Matunuck as it might appear after being swamped by a tsunami. “My family owns a house in Matunuck, so one day I just climbed up on the roof and started taking pictures,” Bianco explains. “Ironically, the day after I finished the print, Hurricane Sandy hit.”

<http://www.providencejournal.com/features/entertainment/art/20130706-risd-exhibit-displays-locally-made-survey-of-contemporary-r.i.-art.ece>