

Cade Tompkins
198 Hope Street Providence Rhode Island 02906
cadetompkins.com cadetompkins@mac.com
Telephone 401 751 4888

Providence galleries present political posters and personal prints

The Providence Journal,
Thursday, September 11, 2008
Art Scene, Bill Van Sicen



INTO THE WAKING WORLD, 2008 (VII)
from the "In the Realm of Reverie Series 1-VII"
Woodcut printed with Handschy hand mixed metallic ink with silver point and gold point drawing on frosted Mylar: 48 x 72 inches overall
Edition of 15
Hand printed by the Artist
Published by Cade Tompkins Editions

WONDERFUL WORKS BY SERENA PERRONE

Prints with a personal side

For a taste of printmaking's more personal side, check out Serena Perrone's solo show at the Sol Koffler gallery on Weybosset Street. A St. Louis native, Perrone earned her master of fine arts from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2006. Since then, her work has been included in a number of high-profile exhibits, including last year's "New Prints" show at the International Print Center in New York. The Whitney Museum recently acquired one of her prints for its permanent collection.

Why all the background? Because Perrone's life story is clearly the inspiration for "In the Realm of Reverie," a striking series of woodcuts that makes up most of the Sol Koffler show. Artists, of course, draw inspiration from their own lives all the time. But "In the Realm of Reverie" turns out to be wonderfully, magically unique -- a kind of Surrealistic coming-of-age story, complete with enchanted forests, hidden dangers and exotic landscapes.

In one print, a young girl (presumably a stand-in for Perrone herself) stands on the threshold of a bridge. On the near side of the bridge, the girl is surrounded by a lush forest. But on the far side of the bridge, the landscape looks cold and barren.

Eventually, of course, the girl will have to cross the bridge and confront whatever fate awaits her on the other side. Yet in this and other works in the series, Perrone transforms her own hopes and fears into something special. Clearly, she's an artist to watch.

Ends Sunday at the Sol Koffler Graduate Student Gallery, 169 Weybosset St., Providence.
Hours. Mon. -Sun. noon-8. (401) 454-6141 or www.risd.edu/exhibitions.