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# THE EPHEMERAL MARKET

AN INCUBATOR FOR ART ENGAGEMENT AND ART COLLECTING

BLOG posts by Danielle Gabriel

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MEET: ALLISON BIANCO, PRINTMAKER



## **When did you know you wanted to be an artist?**

I always loved to draw and as a kid I often used my spare time to make things. During elementary school I remember thinking that it would be great to be an art teacher. I knew that I wanted to be an artist by the time I finished graduate school at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Though I do enjoy teaching, grad school helped me focus on making work and applying to exhibitions as a primary goal.

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**How would you describe your artistic style?**

Contemporary. My prints usually have a narrative development and vibrant color schemes.

**Where do you draw inspiration from?**

Local historic landmarks, coastal landscapes, images from family photos albums, natural disasters

**What projects are you currently working on?**

I am living and working in Rhode Island after recently returning from the DC area where I printed at the Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. In Providence, I make prints at the AS220 Community Printshop. I am preparing for an upcoming exhibition at The Print Center in Philadelphia (opening June 19, 2014), after being awarded one of three solo exhibition prizes in conjunction with The Print Center's 88th Annual International Competition. I also work as a Gallery Associate for Cade Tompkins Projects, which is an art gallery in Providence, RI, specializing in contemporary art from emerging, mid-career, and established artists. Cade Tompkins has recently begun representing my work as well -- so it's the best of both worlds.

**Tell me about your creative process.**

The images I have been making most recently include prints of the coastal towns and villages in my native state of Rhode Island. Within those landscapes I have been exploring the longing that comes with sweetly-sad nostalgic memories. Here is a little about one of these prints in particular: *The Sinking of Matunuck* is a triptych completed in October 2012 that pictures a panoramic view of the small coastal community of Matunuck in southern Rhode Island. A visual accounting of the shacks, trailers, bars, and markets in the present day and the past, the image addresses both community order and degradation. My initial intention was to imagine what Matunuck Village "may" look like after the ocean inevitably claims the land by using fluorescent screen printing ink overlaid on the intaglio-rendered landscape at the level of projected sea rise. Oftentimes in my work, the drastic upheavals are placated by distracting and cheery color schemes. Though this project was conceived before the storm, the actual destruction that took place when Hurricane Sandy battered the Matunuck coast looks eerily similar to the imagined landscape.

**What are you trying to communicate through your work?**

Confabulation is an interesting phenomenon that occurs when the brain fabricates past events that a person never experienced in real life, even though there is no intention to purposely

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deceive. My prints exist as conscious confabulations, in that they reference the past while intermingling the present, which confuses literal history.

Allison Bianco received her MFA in Printmaking (2010) from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and her BA in Studio Art (2001) from Mount Holyoke College, MA. Her work is currently being shown locally in SELECT 2014, the WPA's 33rd Annual Art Auction Exhibition and Gala at Artisphere in Arlington, VA and is on loan to the office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island in the Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC. Bianco's work is included in the collections of the RISD Museum (RI); Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HI), Honblue, Inc. (HI), truth box inc., (RI), Fidelity Investments, (MA), and Pyramid Atlantic (MD).