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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – AiR Studio Gallery, Westerly, RI**

**‘Closely Observed’ Opening October 6, 2023. AiR’s 8th Exhibition.**

‘Closely Observed’ is a concept that attempts to explain how our inward perceptions are often influenced by outward circumstances that can be seen. Artists, and especially photographers, rely on a subject, something we can see, or imagine we see. It may be something grand, but more often it is a simple awareness of the world we inhabit. In this exhibit we get to see what was experienced, remembered, rendered, and shared by a small group of artists.

As we transition into Fall, AiR uses each of their three rooms to present unique perspectives from a small group of artists with two solo photography exhibitions and a group exhibition of painting and objects.

‘Pieces from the Day I Die’ by Jack Ramsdell is a selection of photographs from his solo thesis at the Cooper Union in New York City. The photographs are deeply personal following two pivotal life incidents. With the passing of his mother in 2021, Jack’s work was consumed with her life and his grief. Following a cancer diagnosis for his father, Jack’s focus shifted like winter to spring. From feeling cold to an awakening of all the senses. Nostalgia, a sense longing, and hope is palatable in this body of work.

Our second solo photography exhibition, ‘Chance Encounters’ by Michael Fanelli, brings together a collection of quietly observed moments which are woven into a loose narrative. The photographs are intimately and sequentially presented, offering a glimpse of how he experiences the world around him.

In our main gallery we feature the wood paintings and sculptural pieces by Margit Burmeister, exquisite compositions of found and painted wood accented with vintage elements. Diana Sartor’s oil and cold wax paintings offer a pop of intense color like the autumn trees. Annie Wildey’s seascapes offer a chance to pause and appreciate the beauty of our coastline. And, in a world where art can be a catalyst for change, Tracy Stilwell’s work transcends the realm of aesthetic pleasure, serving as beacons of empowerment, resilience, and hope. Politics and humor are bedfellows in her paintings and fabric dolls. Shari Weschler also uses humor in her figurative paintings from her ongoing ‘Bunni’ series. Cynical and humorous storytellers of human circumstances and emotion channeled through cute soft figures, they are intelligent creatures with an edge.

**‘Closely Observed’ runs from October 6 – 30, With an opening reception on Friday October 6.**

**AiR Studio Gallery hours are Thursday – Sunday 1-6pm or by appointment.**

**About Air Studio Gallery - Creating & Curating Contemporary Art for the Community**

Opened in Dec 2023, AiR brings something fresh to the arts community in Westerly, blurring the line between gallery, studio, and something altogether new. AiR, an abbreviation of artists-in-residence, gives a peek into what owners Annie Wildey and Michael Fanelli are aiming to do with the venue. With three rooms and an abundance of space, visitors will find exhibitions that brings together artwork in surprising and inventive ways. Watch this space!