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Date: March 31, 2023

PRESS RELEASE – AiR Studio Gallery, Westerly, RI

Spring Back – An exhibition of works by Shari Weschler, Annie Wildey and Michael Fanelli.

The third exhibition at AIR Studio Gallery in Westerly RI, spotlights the work of guest artist Shari Weschler, alongside Annie Wildey, and Michael Fanelli. The show explores resilience, transformation, and the return to natural and emotional form.

Shari shares new work from her ongoing ‘Bunni’ series. Cynical and humorous story tellers of human circumstances and a complex psyche. Channeled through cute, soft figures, they are fast, fierce, shape shifting and intelligent creatures. They emerge into existence as intuitively and fearlessly, as the color palette she uses. Always with something to say, often a message from the inner child tugging at our hearts.

We will also get a glimpse of Shari’s 365 illustration journal, launched January 1, 2023. One-a-day drawings to help unload the tales of peril and slow redemption as she springs back.

Annie brings us several new timeless seascape paintings, meditations of the rising and receding tides. Working with a muted almost monochromatic palette, and a gestural stroke, that celebrates the accidental mark, we are still able to feel the power and grace of her subject in a poetic and meaningful way.

Michael’s photographs on paper and aluminum are intimate studies of small branches during their seasonal dormancy and vernal awakening. Exposures are made to render the detail of the branch, often with the light source included in the frame. Focus is shallow isolating time and place. The brittle twigs of winter allow us to see the structure of the organism, like bones, veins or capillaries. Delicate in nature yet able to endure the harshness of winter while preparing to spring back to regrow in new directions, giving us insight to the secret life of branches.

The exhibit runs from April 7 -30. With an opening reception on Friday April 7th from 5-8pm.

AiR Studio Gallery hours are Thursday – Sunday 1-6pm

About Air Studio Gallery

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 “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.