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## **PRESS RELEASE – AiR Studio Gallery, Westerly, RI**

### **Spring into Summer – An exhibition of works by Dan Welden and Shari Weschler.**

The fourth exhibition at AiR Studio Gallery in Westerly RI, spotlights the work of guest artists Dan Welden and Shari Weschler.

Both Dan and Shari's work was created during the pandemic and themes of resilience, transformation, nature, and emotion are explored through narrative and abstract painting.

Dan is an internationally known artist, master printmaker, educator, and author. His 50+ years of collaboration in printmaking include such artists as Willem de Kooning, Eric Fischl, Kiki Smith, and Dan Flavin. He has travelled the world through residences giving workshops in such places as China, Europe, Peru, New Zealand, Australia and many more. With 91 solos shows in 53 countries, Dan was recently awarded a lifetime achievement award from A/E Foundation in New York.

The Pandemic put a temporary pause on Dan's hectic travel schedule leaving him with an abundance of time at home that could be spent in the studio. This proved to be an exceptionally creative time for Dan producing work both monumental and intimate. These mixed media paintings were recently exhibited at the Cotuit Center of the Arts on Cape Cod. We are honored to show a selection of Dan's smaller paintings from this series.

Dan is an experimenter, explorer, and a seeker of beauty. When he sets out to work, there is no image in mind, but the vision unfolds as the work evolves. It usually begins with simple forms and marks with broad areas. It then becomes more refined and delicate and knits itself together through line.

A process person, interested in employing materials and techniques to the 'landscape' of his mind. Dan continues familiar themes in this new work that evolve from the idea of linear pathways echoing from the tracks of animals in nature, fissures in rock palisades and the patterns created by his hands becoming 'playful' with his tools.

We continue this month to show Shari's 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.

**The exhibit runs from May 5 - 29. With an opening reception on Friday May 5th 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.