

Rhode Island Critic's Pics

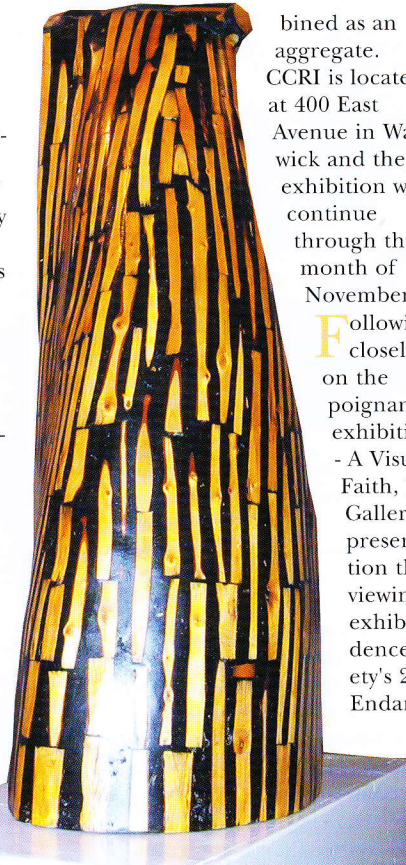
by Michael Cochran

Inaugurating a new gallery collaboration in the Providence Downcity Arts and Entertainment District is a group exhibition called "A Sense of Place." The new gallery called The Space at Alice is an arts-business partnership between the Arts and Business Council of Rhode Island and the real estate development company Cornish Associates.

Located in the recently renovated Alice Building, the new gallery will present the creative work of Rhode Island and New England artists and is part of the Providence downcity revitalization program. This inaugural exhibition highlights eighteen well-known Rhode Island artists, including Peter Diepenbrock, Ruth Dealy and Gretchen Dow Simpson. The Space at Alice is located at 186 Union Street and "A Sense of Place" can be seen through November.

In the Fine Arts Department Gallery at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick is a fascinating show by local artist Bob Rizzo. Rizzo, who is also known as the Founder/Director of Providence's Convergence International Arts Festival, is an accomplished painter and sculptor and is showing a series of new sculptures in this solo exhibition.

The sculptures are three-quarters to full-size figurative assemblages of found wooden and metal cast-off objects. Every individual work stands stalwart, evoking a strong living human presence yet also a clear sense of otherworldliness. The objects of each sculpture's making are the common detritus of attics and garages of bygone days. In and of themselves, the individual objects are only somewhat interesting, but they become profound when com-



One of the works on view at The Space at Alice in Providence.

bined as an aggregate. CCRI is located at 400 East Avenue in Warwick and the exhibition will continue through the month of November.

Following closely on the poignant exhibition, "What Is Cancer? - A Visual Interpretation of Faith, Hope and Struggle," Gallery Z in Providence presents another exhibition that enlightens its viewing public. The new exhibition is titled, "Providence Preservation Society's 2003 Ten Most Endangered Properties Photographic Exhibition."

The exhibit represents the work of ten local photographers who document via black-and-white images the same number of significant historic

properties in Providence that are in danger of being lost. This museum-quality exhibition is a good example of the high level of social consciousness that owner and director Berge Zobian brings to this small upstairs gallery in the developing West End of Providence.

Gallery Z is located at 17 Amherst Street and the exhibition is on view from November 20 to December 12.

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At the Newport Art Museum is the colorful solo exhibition of Rhode Island artist and writer Paula Martiesian. The show, which is titled, "It's a Jungle Out There," is series of seventeen oil-on-canvas paintings that energize the immense Ilgenfritz Gallery with vibrant hues and bold gestures. Each painting draws color and imagery from her favorite gardens but more as reference rather than exact detail. Martiesian's work is about the process of painting more than representation and it's obvious that she loves to paint. Although relatively small in scale, as none of the paintings exceeds 30" X 40," her use of lush browns, greens, golds and magentas communicates her passion for the earth as well as painting.

The Museum is located at 76 Bellevue Avenue and the exhibition continues until December 31. 



Paula Martiesian's "Pomfret, Vermont" at the Newport Art Museum.