

For immediate release

Media Contact: Linda Megathlin, linmeg42@gmail.com, 401-528-7210

Multi-faceted art exhibit, “Rising Seas,” opens at Imago Gallery on April 21

WARREN—Imago Foundation for the Arts (IFA) will host a multi-faceted exhibition called “Rising Seas: Envisioning the Future Ocean State” that will be on view at Imago Gallery in Warren, with additional program events at nearby saltwater marshes from April 21 – May 29.

“Rising Seas” includes artwork by featured IFA artist Linda Megathlin, other IFA exhibiting artists, and guest artist Mark Holme. Focusing on the topic of projected sea level rise and in response to a public call for art for this exhibit, guest juror Chris Sancomb selected an additional 24 artworks from a pool of over 50 submitted pieces. Sancomb is a Rhode Island artist who has a hybrid practice in design and studio arts that explores the intersection of art and science through materials and form.

Megathlin has created her photo-based artwork from aerial maps, shape files of scientifically projected inundations from sea level rise, and photographs of the Bristol County shoreline that were combined to visually communicate the sea level that is rising and the expected 100-year storm flooding projected for Bristol County, Rhode Island.

A large-scale, wall-mounted map showing the projected inundations from sea level rise and 100-year storms in Bristol County that could occur from 2050 – 2100 will be in the gallery as a visual anchor to help visitors interpret the related art in the gallery.

Holme is a sculptor, painter, illustrator and award-winning designer with over 30 years experience as a professional in the visual arts field. For the past several years, he has focused on understanding and depicting the motion and anatomy of wildlife in his wire sculptures. He says, “I enjoy telling a story in my work --whether it’s a seal playfully swimming through a pod of jellyfish or the stance of a blue heron on the hunt. I continue to learn something about each animal and how best to represent it in its form and motion with every piece I create.”

Special exhibition events include:

- A free, public reception for the artists on Saturday, April 23 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Imago Gallery, 36 Market Street, Warren.
- A public gathering at the Audubon Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge in Warren from 10 am – noon on Saturday, April 30. Leonard Yui, Associate Professor of Architecture and Sustainable Studies faculty at Roger Williams University (RWU) and Audubon Senior Director of Conservation Scott Ruhren will lead those attending through an ecological art installation evoking the forerunners of today’s environmental movement as it depicts site-specific projected sea level rise.
- A public walk into Jacob’s Point in Warren from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 14 (rain date on Sunday, May 15) led by Jenny Flanagan of the Warren Land Conservation Trust and Deirdre Robinson of the Saltmarsh Sparrow Research Initiative. Flanagan will talk about the history and geology of the area as well as recent marsh restoration efforts

and why they are so important while Robinson's focus will be on Jacob Point's endangered Saltmarsh Sparrow population.

- A free, public talk at Imago Gallery in Warren at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18 by Elizabeth Rush, author of *RISING – Dispatches from the New American Shore* and an English professor at Brown University. Rush will address whose voices have been traditionally left out of environmental discourse and how we might make this conversation more whole moving forward in order to craft a more creative and collective response to the climate crisis.
- IFA-sponsored conversations with exhibiting artists, local planners and University of Rhode Island experts on sea level rise from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 26 at Imago Gallery in Warren during Art Night Bristol-Warren.

This program is being supported in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funding from BankNewport.

All events are free and open to the public. Regular gallery hours are 3-6 p.m. Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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Captions:

“Skeletons of Tupelos at Jacob’s Point,” photo composition by Linda Megathlin

“Fluid Motion,” wire sculpture by Mark Holme



