

\*\*\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

PROVIDENCE RI July 2016

PRESS RELEASE – for additional information and images, please contact Paula Martiesian at 401-521-7634 or at [roxie.rose@verizon.net](mailto:roxie.rose@verizon.net). Attached image: “This is a Life Worth Living,” painting by Sarah Jane Lapp.

BankRI Turks Head Gallery

One Turks Head Place

401 574-1330.

[www.bankri.com](http://www.bankri.com)

[roxie.rose@verizon.net](mailto:roxie.rose@verizon.net)

Hours Mon-weds 8:30-4

Thurs & Fri 8:30-5

The BankRI Galleries present:

BankRI Turks Head Gallery: “Paintings by Sarah Jane Lapp” August 4 through August 31, 2016 at the BankRI Turks Head branch in downtown Providence at One Turks Head Place. There will be a Gallery Night reception on August 18 from 5 to 8:30 pm with live music by guitarist Mark Armstrong and light refreshments. Exhibit hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact [www.bankri.com](http://www.bankri.com) or call 401 574-1330.

#### MEET THE ARTIST –SARAH-JANE LAPP

If life were a line drawing with commentary, filmmaker and all around art maker Sarah Jane Lapp would know what to do. She’d make a movie, or a drawing, or a movie made up of many drawings. She’d lay a piece of paper down on the floor of her home studio and make a painting, then make a jigsaw puzzle from the painting. She’d draw tiny contrabass players on dried lima beans or she’d make 1000 sugar packets by hand and combine them in animation.

Point in fact, Lapp does do all these things and she does them with an almost syncopated sense of the absurd.

In Lapp’s family, humor was genetic. Her maternal grandfather sent her letters from his dog. The edges were roughed up to look chewed and the words were spelled phonetically as only a dog might do. Her mother created inner lives for objects around the house. Her father, well, her father laughed.

Combining writing with image-making comes naturally to Lapp. More deliberate is Lapp’s use of humor to help craft solutions to the world’s issues. “I suspect artist-inventors try,” Lapp says, “to express one’s magical interiority *and* to solve problems of the greater world.”

Lapp grew up in Minneapolis in the 1970s, benefiting from the era's generous corporate funding for the arts. She participated in summer writing programs and went on to attend Brown University, graduating with a degree in creative writing. Then it was on to Prague as a Fulbright Scholar where she studied film production. Back in the United States, she earned a Masters in Filmmaking at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After crisscrossing the country a few times, Lapp has settled in an old Seekonk farmhouse. Whenever she feels the need, she hightails it to New York City "to offer plein-air puzzling opportunities for friends near and far."

Lately, Lapp has been painting more and making films less. "All I need to paint is paper, paint and floor," Lapp says. "It was hard to finish a film without ending up in a hospital." A conversation with a movie producer may have also influenced her recent painting embrace.

"There are apples and oranges," Lapp recalls him saying. "And you're a kiwi and we don't know what to do with you."

The kiwi has been painting. As always, the strong narrative nature of her work is present with extended line drawings. Newly discovered is a celebratory sense of color, bright, strong and brave. Each painting's individual story line weaves in and out of a sea of colorful abandon. Instead of telling a tale with thousands of individual frames, Lapp is able to combine her worlds into a single painting.

"I'm looking for opportunities for things to be more magical," Lapp says. She envisions a world where postage stamps taste like crème brûlée and "artistic practices encourage citizens to create equitable economic and social structures, or, where, at the least, denizens connect communally in a jigsaw puzzle café...."

The BankRI Galleries are curated by Paula Martiesian, a Providence-based artist and arts advocate.

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