

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, August 31, 2023

Media Contact

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Announcing *DIVINE PROVIDENCE* by Umberto Crenca An Exhibition at the WaterFire Arts Center Gallery

Open from October 12-November 12

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 12 from 5-8 p.m.

Providence, RI WaterFire Providence announces *DIVINE PROVIDENCE*, a salon-style month-long exhibition by Umberto “Bert” Crenca on view from Thursday, October 12 through Sunday, November 23, 2023 in the gallery of the WaterFire Arts Center (WFAC). The exhibition is made possible by the support of [BankNewport](#) and Joseph A. Chazan, M.D.

“Bert Crenca’s *DIVINE PROVIDENCE* magically captures the everyday beauty of our city and we are excited to be presenting the vast majority of works in this series together in one exhibition for the first time,” says Peter A. Mello, Managing Director + coCEO at WaterFire Providence, “Everybody will discover something special yet familiar from their neighborhood or daily commute in this extraordinary show.”

Crenca’s paintings offer a genuine, loving yet unsentimental perspective of urban Providence. His art portrays the lesser-explored aspects of the city, from its corners and crevices to the in-between spaces. Each piece celebrates the beauty found in everyday life and captures the essence of the city’s neighborhoods from the perspective of a longtime resident. Although each individual *DIVINE PROVIDENCE* painting can captivate with its unique details and character, the series, consisting of over 250 pieces, is best seen as a cohesive installation. The exhibition at WFAC is a significant event, marking the first time since the series began in early 2020 that a substantial portion of the entire series will be displayed together in a single space.

Umberto Crenca is a visual and performance artist whose work has appeared in numerous solo and group exhibitions and performances. His paintings are included in the permanent collections of the RISD Museum and the Newport Art Museum as well as in private collections

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in the US and abroad. He lives and maintains a studio in Providence, RI with his wife, artist and musician Susan Clausen.

A public opening is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The exhibition will also be on view during WaterFire's [7th Annual FireBall Gala](#), happening on Thursday, October 19, 2023 where Umberto Crenca will be receiving a WaterFire Impact Award for his Creative Impact on the City of Providence and all of Rhode Island.

On Sunday, October 29 The Gillen Street Ensemble will be performing in the Wilbury Theatre Group's performance space at the WaterFire Arts Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. The musical improvisation collective is composed of nine members including Crenca, Susan Clausen, Christopher Anderson, Alan Greco, Alice Jackson, Armando Crenca, Cliff Wood, Mitch Mackenzie, and Heather Ahern. Guests can anticipate a combination of music, spoken word, movement, and video projections. Additional details can be found at waterfire.org/events

The exhibition's programming will conclude on Wednesday, November 8 with a moderated conversation with Umberto Crenca happening at 6:00 p.m. in the Gallery of the WFAC.

The WFAC store + gallery are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays. The exhibition is free and open to all, donations encouraged.

For more about the WaterFire Arts Center, visit waterfire.org/wfac or follow @waterfireartscenter on Instagram.

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About WaterFire Providence

WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire contributing over \$149,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit <https://waterfire.org/>.

About the WaterFire Arts Center

WaterFire Providence purchased the Art Center in 2012 and began rehabilitation for the vacant, historic, industrial building in the underserved Olneyville/Valley neighborhood of Providence. The 37,000 sq. ft. multi-use arts center has become WaterFire's first permanent home in the community and serves as its headquarters, production complex, and a multi-purpose arts venue as well as a social enterprise platform strengthening the organization's long-term financial sustainability. Exhibitions presented at WaterFire Arts Center will further the organization's agenda of providing

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arts and culture opportunities and experiences for all, regardless of social, cultural, or economic background. For more information about the WaterFire Arts Center including rental inquiries, please visit: <https://waterfire.org/wfac>