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NEW MEMBER SHOW *ONLINE* @ www.princestreetgallery.com

Prince Street Gallery introduces two new artist members, Michael Walden and Margot Bittenbender, based in Massachusetts and Connecticut, respectively. Although their subject matter is quite different, they both consistently explore surface and texture, and feature a visual narrative in their work.

Walden is both a painter and a printmaker, two media that began as separate pursuits and now have begun to inform each other. In addition to his art studies, he also studied Architectural Preservation, and has participated in the restoration of four period structures.

“That study,” Walden comments, “began to work its way into my work. Ultimately, I think these empty rooms that I create begin to tell some sort of story about humans and how we interact in space.”

His works here – empty rooms and swimming pools with a few solitary figures – emphasize emotions and humanity, coincidentally coinciding with a time when so many people are contemplating being alone or being with others.

Bittenbender has been a teacher, a museum docent in Bangkok and Columbus, Ohio, and a dealer in contemporary Japanese prints. She also led groups of elementary students and their parents to visit an elementary school in Xi’an, China, and co-directed an English language summer school there over several years.

Bittenbender, a printmaker who lived in Asia for fourteen years, seven of them in Japan, here shares a sampling of her Japanese-influenced work, juxtaposing cultures, history, media, and memory. For more contemporary works, look to her “Wonderland Kimono” series on her web site.

“I always observe, but avoid commenting,” she remarked. “My interest is in man-made objects that are markers of culture and myth and of the way people live their lives.”

Both artists seem to have that in common.

Their show is online at www.princestreetgallery.com August 1 through 31.

www.michaelwalden.net

www.margotbittenbenderprints.com