

Solo Exhibit of Political & Social Art Works –

Umberto Crenca at Gallery Z

by Ellen Goodlin

At GALLERY Z - “Puzzled, Fragments & Flower Power,” Thursday, March 5th through Sunday, April 5th, 2020. Opening Reception Thursday, March 19th, 5-9pm. Artist talk: Saturday, March 21st at 5 pm at Gallery Z.

Gallery Z is celebrating twenty years of showcasing fine art with over 200 exhibits in two decades. Director Berge Ara Zobian is honored to celebrate Gallery Z’s 20th anniversary with his dear friend, Umberto Crenca, artist and co-founder of AS220, with a solo exhibit of Umberto Crenca’s political and social artworks at Gallery Z from March 5th through April 5th. **An opening reception for Umberto Crenca will be held at Gallery Z on Thursday, March 19, from 5-9pm. Additionally, on Saturday, March 21st at 5 pm, also at Gallery Z, Umberto Crenca will give a talk about his works.**

A visual and performing artist, Crenca’s works have been exhibited and performed widely in galleries, pop-up spaces and performance venues, including the Galleria Del Corso (Latina, Italy), La Galeria Matadero (Puerto Rico), the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, the Newport Art Museum (RI), and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Scotland). He lives and maintains a studio in Providence, RI, with his wife, artist and musician Susan Clausen.

Umberto Crenca remains committed to the revitalization of Providence’s historic downtown. He served on Mayor Cicilline’s Arts, Culture & Tourism Advisory Board and on the steering committee for the department’s Creative Providence cultural assessment and planning initiative, the Providence School Board (2005 thru 2008). Crenca acted as advisor to the LINC initiative, a national effort to create better support systems for individual artists. An accomplished educator, Crenca has spearheaded efforts to bring more meaningful arts experiences to incarcerated youth, taught visual art in Providence at Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP), also at New Pride School, and served as a mentor for The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (The Met School).

In 2013, Crenca received the Making a Difference Award from the Providence/Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau for support of the Rhode Island Tourism Industry and was Keynote Speaker at the Wilmington Renaissance Corporation’s Annual Meeting entitled “Bridging Big Ideas to Life.” In 2011, Crenca was mentioned in *Fast Company’s Fast Cities* feature “United States of Innovation“, which listed bold ideas and

brilliant urbanites who are helping to build the cities of America's future, and received the Rhode Island Foundation's 2011 Community Service Award. In 2010, Crenca received a Rhode Island Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts, and was honored with a Charles B. Willard Professional Achievement Award from Rhode Island College. Rhode Island Monthly magazine included Crenca as one of the region's most influential individuals in "Who Really Runs This State: The 28 Most Influential Rhode Islanders in 2010." In 2016, Bert was recognized by the Obama White House as a "White House Champion of Change." In the same year, he received honorary doctorates from Brown University and Roger Williams University.

In the past three decades, Crenca has been a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), The Urban Institute, LEF Foundation, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Connecticut Council on the Arts (CCA), the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) Artist Trust, and the Creative Cities Summit. He was a guest speaker and mentor for the CCA's Urban Artist Initiative, and a fellow both in the Rhode Island Foundation and the Pew Civic Entrepreneur Initiative (PCEI) of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change.

Gallery Z also displays a rotating exhibition of original fine art (paintings, photographs, drawings, mixed media, glass, sculptures, assemblages, lithographs) drawn its stable of over 400 locally, nationally or internationally renowned fine artists, plus fine ceramics, pottery, jewelry and Armenian and international handicrafts.

Gallery Z hosts a reception for the current exhibit every third Thursday of the month, twelve months/year. ALL RECEPTIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Member Federal Hill Commerce Association, Providence/Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau and Gallery Night Providence, AHARI (Armenian Historical Assn. of RI) and Americans for the Arts. **Art is tax-free.**

Gallery Z Hours: Thurs - Sat 12-8pm, Sun. 12-6pm and by appt. or chance.

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