



Inspired by Music, “Syncopation” Opens at William Ris Gallery

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by Sponsors

William Ris Gallery Features Award-Winning Artists in “Syncopation”

On Exhibit: August 18 through September 9, 2018

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 18, from 4 – 7 pm with Live Special Performance by Grammy award-winning Gil Goldstein,

William Ris Gallery, 1291 Main Road, Jamesport, NY 11947

The William Ris Gallery is pleased to present “**Syncopation**,” a duo show featuring two award-winning artists, Michael Ingui and Robin D Williams, from August 18 through September 9, 2018 at the North Fork gallery. The show embraces music in both visual art and performance and will feature a special live performance at the Opening Reception.

As the title “**Syncopation**” indicates, there is a deep connection to and inspiration of music with the artwork which gallery owner, Mary Cantone, curated to best highlight and compliment each artist. “I wanted to draw attention to how music and the visual arts have always been intertwined and inspired by each other,” Cantone explains, adding, “Most artists have a backdrop of music while they work, whether it’s classical, rock, electronica, or whatever moves them.” In the case of Ingui and Williams, both share a passion for jazz amongst other genres.



Work by Michael Ingui. Courtesy of William Ris Gallery.

The combination of the synchronicity of the artists’ music fueled artwork as well as their syncopated approach technically is behind the concept of **Syncopation**. Ingui, who is also an architect and partner at the New York based sustainable architectural design firm [Baxt Ingui Architects PC](#), paints primarily with enamel, oils and an acrylic mix with a pouring medium, while Williams uses the blind contour method, drawing the contours of her subject without ever looking down at the paper or lifting the pen. The fluidity of motion and vibrant energy, much like the

melody, rhythm and energy of music, is apparent in both artists' works.

"Being an architect and artist inform each other," Ingui philosophizes, explaining his passion for both. The son of a musician who himself studied music in his youth, Ingui's intuitive nature of his paintings can be attributed directly to his love of music, particularly jazz.

"The musicians start with a theme but then improvise going in and out of complicated rhythms, eventually coming back to the theme — my paintings are like that, capturing the movement in the song," he explains. Each line and movement affects the next like a live jazz performance, a continuous reaction as the paint Ingui prefers to work with dries quickly, "...and similar to that, you can't fix what you put down," he notes.

Ingui's 2007 MTA commissioned installation, "[Crescendo](#)," won the 2008 Building Brooklyn Award, and was listed #2 (second only to Chuck Close's "Subway Portraits") in the 2017 Time Out Magazine's "[Top 20 NY Subway Art Installations](#)."



Work by Michael Ingui. Courtesy of William Ris Gallery.

New Jersey born Williams, who currently lives in Florida, rose to prominence in Manhattan for her colorful abstract paintings as part of the underground collective of young artists in the '70s and '80s. The self-taught artist eventually landed on blind contour as her primary choice of expression which she has been practicing now for over 20 years.

"The blind contour line is alive, immediate, evocative. It dances on the page and to me it is the most expressive," says Williams, adding, "The drawing is like life — there is no going back, no do over."

In 2007, Williams was awarded a coveted membership to the [Drawing Center](#) in Manhattan, the only not for profit museum in the U.S. to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings. When asked about how music inspires her art, Williams explains, "I let my mind go with the story of the music, looping one song over and over while I work on a piece." Williams often can be found at concerts and jazz clubs drawing musicians as they perform, the results reflecting the pure drive of live performance and often a feeling of intimacy in her subjects with their musical craft.



"Philly Joe" by Robin D Williams. Courtesy of William Ris Gallery.



“Blue Dreams” by Robin D Williams. Courtesy of William Ris Gallery.

The exhibition opens Saturday, August 18, 2018, from 4 – 7 pm, and will feature a special live performance by New Suffolk resident and multiple Grammy award-winning producer and musician, [Gil Goldstein](#), as Williams creates a blind contour drawing of the performance. This is the first exhibition by both Ingui and Williams in Long Island, and will be the perfect finish to the summer as [William Ris Gallery](#) prepares their Fall exhibition calendar starting in September.

BASIC FACTS: “Syncopation” is on view from August 18 through September 9, 2018. An Opening Reception takes place on Saturday, August 18, from 4 – 7 pm.

William Ris Gallery is located at 1291 Main Road, Jamesport, NY 11947 Gallery hours are: Daily from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. and by appointment. www.williamris.com.

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