

**July 24, 2014. For immediate release.
PRESS RELEASE**

The Island Gallery
400 Winslow Way E., #120
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
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For more information, contact
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EVENT:



CURT LABITZKE
MEN AND WOMEN

Intaglio Prints and Paintings

August 1 - 31, 2014

Recent Works from Curt Labitzke
Chair, Printmaking Program
University of Washington School of Art

Reception with the Artist:

First Friday, August 1, 6-8 pm

In Concert on the Plaza
Ranger and the Re-Arrangers

Location: The Island Gallery, 400 Winslow Way E., #120, Bainbridge Island, Washington

About the Artists:

Carl Labitzke was born in New York in 1958, his father an illustrator and his mother a quilt-maker. He received his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Notre Dame in 1984 with a concentration in Painting, Printmaking and Drawing. Upon completion of his degree he joined the Studio Art faculty at the University of Washington, Seattle. Curt is currently the Chair of the Printmaking and Interdisciplinary Visual Arts Programs and regularly teaches in the School of Art's study abroad program in Rome and Florence, Italy.

His work is influenced by his extensive travels and reflects a passion for the sensuous quality of Etruscan art, the beauty of the Renaissance, the poetic storytelling of the Greeks and the brut directness of the German Expressionists.

The intaglio prints, often built of iconic figures inspired by ancient Greek and Roman portrait busts, peer from their ambiguous space seeking empathy as they passionately engage the viewer.

Curt's artistic process involves several stages: sketching, etching the sketched figure onto a copper or plexiglas plate, inking the plate, running the inked plate through a vintage press onto archival paper, distressing the printed paper with a variety of tools and adding pigment, again inking the plate and running the initial printed paper through the press again, repeating the distressing, pigment and print steps up to five times. The resulting print resembles a treasure unearthed from an archeological dig.

Curt's work has been exhibited internationally in Italy, France, Mexico and Chile, across the United States, and locally at venues such as the Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, and the Jacob Lawrence Gallery.

Ranger and the Re-Arrangers: Bainbridge Island's own Gypsy Jazz band! Playing in the upbeat style created in the 1930s by Django Reinhardt and other European string players who embraced American jazz, fiddling phenomenon Ranger Sciacca fronts this sizzling hot fivesome of violin, mandolin, bass, percussion and rhythm guitar as they play their award-winning originals, swing standards, and traditional Gypsy tunes. Ranger's creative, syncopated leads complement the band's steady, swinging rhythms.

About the boys:

Ranger Sciacca's performances and compositions reflect his extensive studies in classical, jazz, and folk music. His Suzuki teacher, Alice Kanack, publishes books and CDs on improvising classical music. Ranger also studied folk and dance music for seven years with renowned Seattle fiddler Stuart Williams. Ranger's main influences include guitarist Django Reinhardt and jazz violin greats Stuff Smith, Claude Williams and Stephane Grappelli. A Bainbridge Island native, Ranger studied jazz theory and history at Whitman College.

Michael Sciacca, Ranger's dad, has been his rhythm guitarist for years; they have performed as a swing jazz duo since 2001.

Bassist **Todd Houghton** has had an extensive career in performing, teaching, and producing music. Todd is an advisor to Jack Straw Production's Blind Youth Audio Project and has hosted an "open mic" on Bainbridge Island, Washington since 1993.

Percussionist **Jeffrey Moose** has a 30-year career in both music and fine art. His collaborations and band projects include work with Joined at the Head, Heliotroupe, Dog Superior, Stiff Kitty, Atoke, Zayah Emmanuel, and Sam Andrews, founder of Big Brother and the Holding Company. He is currently director of Jeffrey Moose Gallery in Seattle.

Mandolin player **Dave Stewart** is a classically-trained pianist.

For More Information Contact: The Island Gallery, **206.780.9500** or
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