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Allison Bianco: The Baby Powder Trick

June 20 – August 2, 2014

Thursday, June 19: Gallery Talk by the artist and John Caperton, 5:30pm;
Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm

PHILADELPHIA: *The Baby Powder Trick* is a solo exhibition of over thirty prints by **Allison Bianco** (Providence, RI) created from 2011 - 2014. The show was awarded to Bianco from her entry into The Print Center's 88th Annual International Competition, juried by Julia Dolan, Minor White Curator of Photography and Bruce Guenther, Chief Curator, Mercedes Eichholz Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, OR.

Bianco's work references popular tourist destinations, and local and national landmarks, informed by her sense of personal and historic nostalgia. They are characterized by the use of arresting color counterpointed by hints of tragedy. She often depicts impending storms that foreshadow destruction. An example of this is *The Sinking of Matunuck*, a sweeping panoramic view of the small coastal community of Matunuck in southern Rhode Island. The print is a visual accounting of shacks, trailers, bars and markets from both the present day and the past. This project was conceived before Hurricane Sandy battered the Matunuck coast, which now looks eerily similar to her imagined landscape.

Other works include a single installation of twenty-five screen prints of shipwrecks from her *Go Ahead and Sink* and *The Last Leg* series. The imagery for both series is based on historical and modern shipwrecks like: the Smoking Helen, who found herself on fire and spewing green smoke in the middle of a hazy gray sea; the Mildred, a large sailboat which froze in a teal ribbon of water; and, the Queen May, who ran up on a rock on Sentinel Island, Alaska, August 5, 1910. The recent large-scale work, *Later that Day at Second Beach*, pictures the old town of Newport, RI. Dramatic arched fireworks nod to traditional 19th century Japanese woodblock prints, such as those by Ando Hiroshige's of Edo (now Tokyo). Bianco's work connects Rhode Island to Hiroshige's Edo.

Allison Bianco received an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Hawaii, 2010 and a BA in Studio Art from Mount Holyoke College, 2001. Recent exhibitions include *New Prints: New Narratives/Summer 2013* and *New Prints/ Autumn 2013*, International Print Center New York, NY, NY; *Locally Made*, RISD Museum, Providence, RI; and the *Boston Printmakers 2013 North American Print Biennial*, Boston, MA. Her work is held in the collections of the RISD Museum, Providence, RI; Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Honolulu, HI; and, Pyramid Atlantic, Silver Spring, MD.

The Baby Powder Trick will be on view June 20 – August 2, 2014, from 11:00am-6:00pm, Tuesdays-Saturdays. An opening reception will be held Thursday, June 19th from 6:00-8:00pm, with a gallery talk by the artist at 5:30pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including exhibitions; The Print Center Gallery Store, which offers the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest

running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; and an extensive series of education programs and special events.