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Multigallery benefit; AS220 has cool crows

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Also in Providence, the upstairs gallery at AS220 is hosting an installation by Umberto Crenca. Crenca, who is AS220's artistic director, is fascinated by crows. And why not? Biologically, culturally and visually, they’re one of Mother Nature’s coolest customers.

Crenca’s installation, which includes paintings, drawings and sculptures, as well as tape recordings of crow calls, takes full advantage of this rich store of crow-related lore and legend. One of the show’s largest sculptures, for example, is based on a talon attributed to *corvus colussus*, a giant crow-like bird that lived some 65 million years ago. Scientists estimate that corvus had a wingspan of up to 120 feet.

Other works feature the more familiar, but still mysterious, figure of the common crow. Especially good is a series of small assemblages that feature tiny crows perched on pieces of carved and painted wood. The combination of Crenca’s ornithological obsessiveness and the fetish-like nature of the assemblages is a perfect match.

**Multigallery benefit; AS220 has cool crows**

Providence galleries will be busy this weekend.

On Saturday, the Wickenden Old Harbor Art and Antiques Association is sponsoring a day-long open house and gift raffle as part of a fund-raising effort for the Washington, D.C.-based National Museum of Women in the Arts. Many of the participating stores and galleries will feature exhibits that focus on art made by and for women.

The Bert Gallery at 240 Water Street will show prints and paintings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including works by Rhode Island artists Elisa Gardiner, Edna Lawrence and Mabel Woodward. The Alaimo Gallery at 321 Wickenden St., meanwhile, will feature a selection of turn-of-the-century ads and illustrations celebrating “the modern woman.” Other galleries taking part in the open house are the Benefit Street Gallery at 140 Wickenden St. and JRS Fine Arts at 218 Wickenden St.

**ART WRAPUP**

By Bill Van Siclen

**Through March 30 at AS220, 115 Empire St. Hours are weekdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays 1-4 p.m.**