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Dante Persechino's punishing style

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TUESDAY,
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ART SPOTLIGHT



The artist: Dante Persechino, 34.

What he does: Painter and sculptor.

Where he's been: Born Providence. Attended Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. Lives in Cranston.

A world of his own: As a painter, Persechino favors bright colors and bold patterns and admires the work of French Fauvists such as Henri Matisse and Andre Derain. (The word "fauve" means "wild beast" in French, a reference to the Fauvists's use of raw, unmixed colors.) "I'm influenced by the outside world," he says. "But I'm really trying to make something that stands on its own. I'm trying to create my own world."

Beating the brushes: In describing his technique, Persechino says he doesn't so much paint a painting as pummel the canvas. "I can be pretty hard on things like brushes and palette knives and stuff," he confesses. "For example, I don't use expensive paint brushes because I usually destroy them while I'm working. In fact, sometimes I look around and there aren't any decent brushes anywhere. They're all broken."

One for the history books: Persechino isn't shy about his goals. "I want to be remembered as a great artist," he says. "That's what I want more than money or school or anything." In the meantime, Persechino exhibits where he can. Examples of his work can be found in Providence at CenterCity Artisans in the Arcade and at AS220, the alternative arts center at 115 Empire St.

— BILL VAN SICLEN