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ART. One way to break down the formality of viewing an art exhibit is to literally just tack up the work on wall randomly. Figure Study As Wallpaper, a new show by Anthony Tomaselli, sounds like it might be up to something like that. The media ranges from finished paintings, to quick gesture studies, to wash drawings, all dealing with the human form. It runs through the March 31 at AS220, 71 Richmond Street, Providence. Call 831-9327.

Fiber technologies includes a huge variety of art forms — from basketry to handmade paper to quiltmaking. Each has taken several turns toward modern aesthetics in the last two decades, and the results of such updating can be seen in Ties That Bind: Contemporary Directions in Fiber, a new show at Rhode Island College’s Bannister Gallery through March 23. The exhibition will "explore the divergent conceptual strategies" of Judy Becker, Johanna Evans, Janis Lavine, Erica Licea-Kane, Karen Page, Dianne Stanton and Sandy Weisman. At 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence. The opening reception is from 7-9 p.m.; call 456-9765.

Local music

donated gear; this time he needs drums. Quoth MacLeod: "I know there are drummers out there with Simms drums in their closets that they hate: why not donate to a truly worthy cause?" Call Rory at 831-1633, or UCAP days at 272-0881....In other news from NYC, Jack Smith and the Hardliners just played their first gig at Tramps...the Premiers have a showcase gig for the labels this Friday at Manhattan’s Rodeo Room, and Rainforest will move this week to St. Mark’s Place in the East Village. Best to all (I’ll be down to visit — that’s a promise)...Celtic fans, rejoice! Pendragon’s third recording, The Working River, is being released momentarily. Plan now to catch ‘em on St. Patty’s at the Lincoln School Auditorium, sponsored by Stone Soup. It’s all about life in New England’s industrial heartland — I, for one, can’t wait. Congrats to Bob Drouin and the gang...The new Muse is loose this weekend when Fred Abong makes his local debut (at the Living Room Friday) with Throwing Muses. New York Press’ inimitable Wif Stenger woofed that their last NYC gig was “awful.” Catch you at the Room, Wiffenpoof. Will the Muses unleash some post-Hunkpapa material? You won’t know if you don’t go. Do it up, Freddy...Karen Smith and Jeff Neuman (ex-Philtres) have teamed up with The Ragamuffins, and now go by the name The Nelsons. Their new tape’s due soon...Friday, you gotta check out Full Tilt Zelda at A920, along with Crash (Jim ‘no brain no pain’) Finnerty and 30 minutes of free line-dance lessons. Twelve guitars! Examples: None! Yup, they call it “The Night of Cheesy Music,” but the only cheese, as usual, is between Umberto’s toes (that’s for the Tom Petty crack, Bert). As usual, great thrills real cheap...Tonight, however, you can try to lose the winter polysaturates all at once when Tony Richards and the K-Man Band invade the Living Room. The last tape from this Connecticut band (Live Sweat) melted the heads of my cassette player. It’s absolutely breakneck R&B; no breathers, no prisoners. Bring them dancin’ shoes.