

THE INTIMATE COAST: Meet Rhode Island Sea Grant Visual Arts Award Winner **Lilla Samson**

Amidst grant funding for projects such as summer flounder biology and nutrient mixing, Rhode Island Sea Grant sets aside a bit of money to fund visual arts projects with a marine theme through the Sea Grant Visual Arts Program. Lilla Samson, one of the recent winners, has been working on capturing increasingly smaller fragments of the marine landscape. She writes, “That edge where land and water meet, the coast, is a jagged wiggly line of bays, headlands, inlets, peninsulas, and islands ranging over the spectrum of scale from Landsat views of earth from space, to what we might encounter walking, to what an ant might find crawling in and out along that edge, to what might be revealed at infinitesimal levels through electron scanning microscopy.”

Samson used her grant to further explore various scales of experience with the marine landscape. Presented below is a sample of her work. In addition to creating and exhibiting her art, Samson teaches foundation-level courses in two-dimensional design and drawing at local colleges and universities.

—*Monica Allard Cox*



Samson is “interested in reversing our normal sense of scale through magnifying the smallest and most intimate of spaces.” *Image by Lilla Samson.*