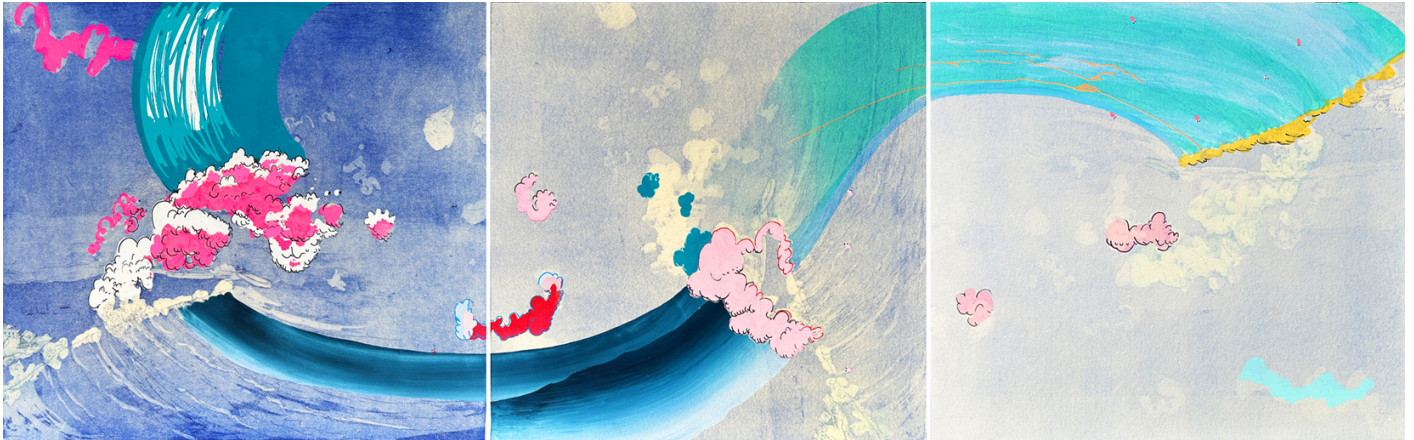




CADE TOMPKINS PROJECTS

ALLISON BIANCO

*The Great New England Hurricane of 1938*



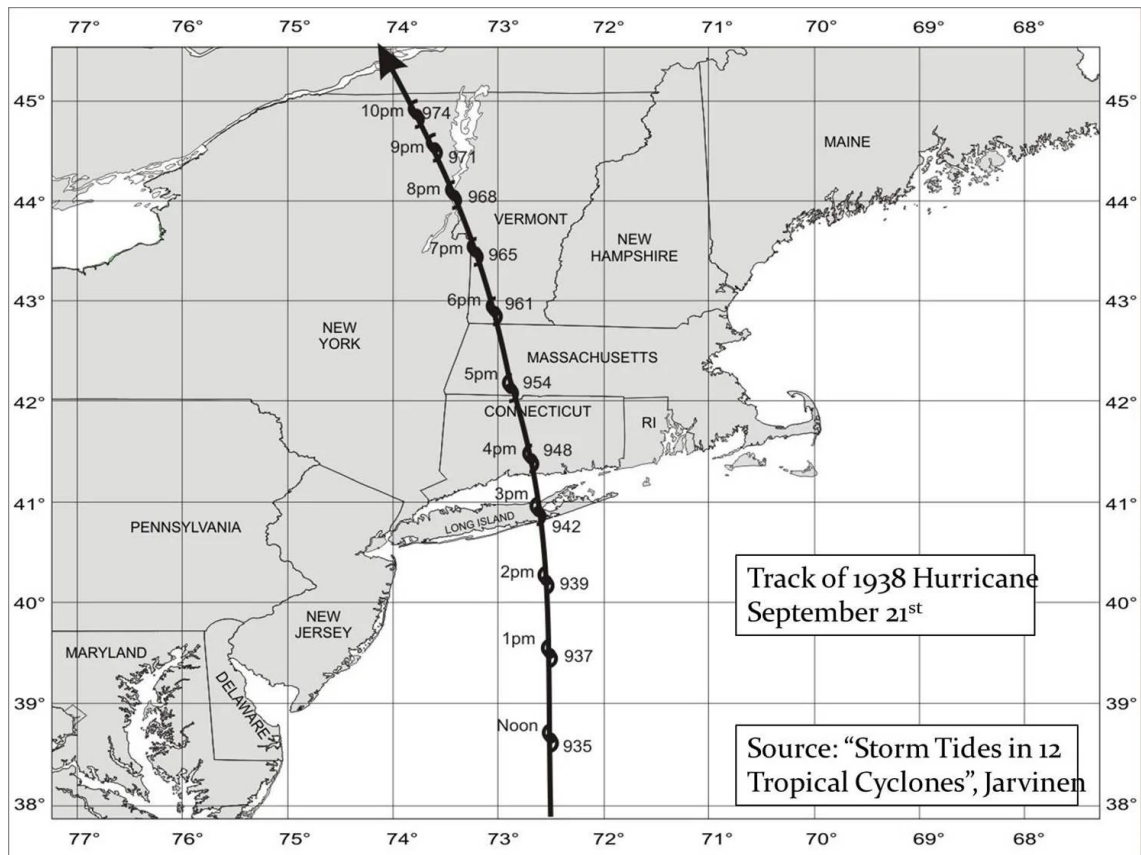
*Catch You on the Flip Side* 2025, intaglio, screen print, glow-in-the dark ink, 18 x 54 inches, edition of 6

Allison Bianco's work utilizes a combination of printmaking processes to illustrate how the space between water and land can change slowly over time, or drastically with the onset of huge storms. Her recent series explores The Great New England Hurricane of 1938, which includes the works *Catch You on the Flip Side* (pictured above), *Stand to Sea, So Ends this Day, It Never Ends*, and *Ghost in the Dunes*. These intaglio/screen prints imagine watery worlds through the lens of maritime artwork traditions. The rising sea of mythic proportions comes in the form of seven waves that travel over hundreds of years to the Atlantic where they reach land at the Point Street Bridge in Providence, Rhode Island on September 21, 1938. On that day one of the most devastating New England hurricanes caused the sea level to rise 20 feet up the seven hills that the City was built upon. Bianco researched at Special Collections at the Providence Public Library blending a myriad of scrapbook references, aerial photographs, whaling log illustrations and even sentiments of historic Japanese Kwaraban papers to produce a view of her home state of Rhode Island, with a bright and foreboding atmosphere. Underneath the sea, in the deep unknown, time seems to pass unaffected by the turmoil above.

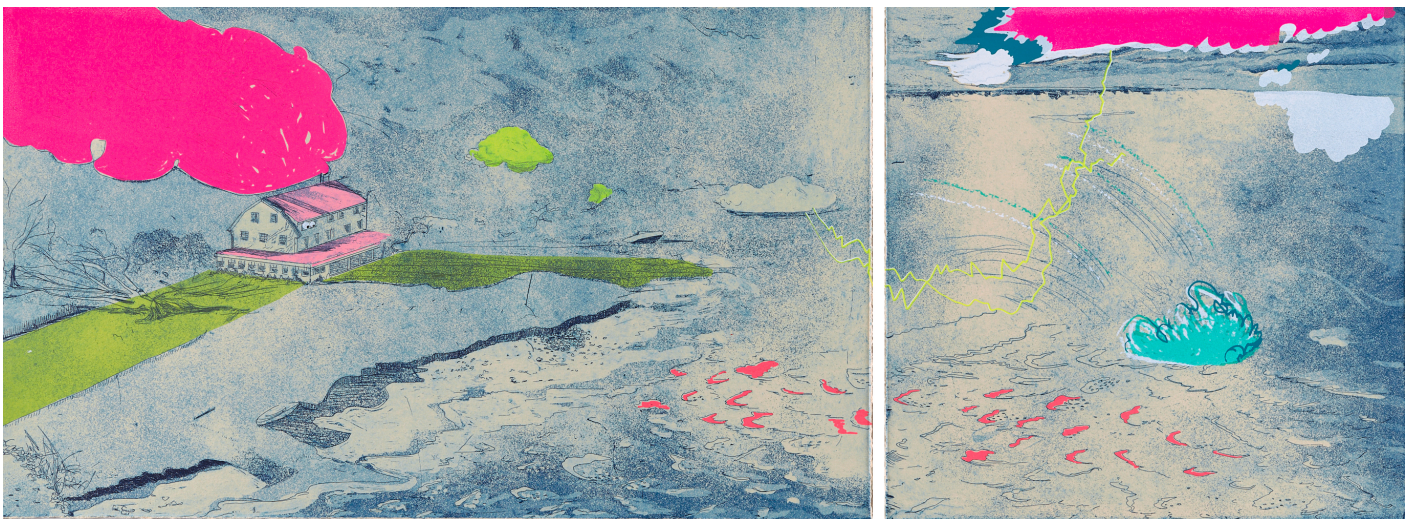
The continuation of this project will expand to include the track of the storm, beginning with the devastated parts of MacDowell, notably Star Studio, in Peterborough, NH. As the MacDowell website describes: "When the dense growth of trees around the building was leveled in the 1938 hurricane, the studio, originally tucked away, was left in a bare, open field. Landscaping put in place by Mrs. MacDowell has since yielded to a pine forest, once again providing a quiet sylvan setting for the writers and other artists at work inside." In fact, as The Keene Sentinel reported, "the damage was so extensive at The MacDowell Colony, the artists' retreat on High Street, that it didn't accept any artist residencies the following year." As a MacDowell fellow in September, Bianco began the MacDowell hurricane print, and is currently completing it in her home studio.



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Over the next year, Bianco will create prints from research in Long Island, where the storm originally made landfall, as well as parts of Connecticut including New Haven and Mystic; Cape Cod, MA; and Burlington, VT.



*It Never Ends 2025*, intaglio, screen print, glow-in-the dark ink, 9 x 24 inches, edition of 6