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Kingston Gallery
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Ilona Anderson’s Work Sparkles with Grand Gestures Kingston Gallery

Boston, MA - Kingston Gallery is pleased to present *Arcology*, a multi-media, solo exhibition of new works by Ilona Anderson. Her drawings on paper incorporate elegant figures, animals that at times take on hybrid qualities, and geometric abstraction. Numerous drawings, each made on an intimate scale, connect in unexpected ways from one sheet of paper to another to form a dizzying and elaborate installation that is beyond the human scale.

On View: September 30 - November 1, 2015
First Friday Opening Reception: Friday, October 2, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Always a colorist, Anderson’s captivating range of colors, including glitter and neon, bring to mind imaginative and over-the-top high fashion photo shoots. “I like glitzy things,” she says, but despite the airy atmosphere, the drawings operate as maps that engage concepts such as relocation and race relations.

Those who grew up in one country and then relocated to another one will understand Anderson’s effort to capture a fleeting sense of home in her artwork. Over time, “a gap happens, where you realize you don’t belong in either place. It is a fluid, fluctuating thing,” says Anderson, who grew up in South Africa and has lived in Boston since traveling here for a Fulbright Scholarship years ago. Her earlier work spoke of the tension between danger and violence in South Africa. In place of flowers and animals, images of locks and barbed wire alluded to the struggle for everyday survival in the midst of apartheid governance.

Anderson’s current work shifts away from an overt focus on politics toward fantastic and surreal visions. The large rectangles paper fill an entire wall in seemingly random shifts of black and white, rather than a neat checkerboard pattern. Her drawings overlap those boundaries, fusing the borders and working equally well on the black and the white grounds. The resulting diverse and radiant conglomerate says as much about the potential for transnational understanding as it does for racial relations, both in South Africa and in the United States.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Ilona Anderson is a South African artist with an international career. She came to Boston on a Fulbright Scholarship and has remained as a noted visual artist and professor. Her works are in many collections, including the National Gallery of South Africa, the University of Witwatersrand Art Gallery, and the Nelson Mandela Art Museum. Anderson has exhibited in numerous museums in South Africa and America, including The Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, and the Currier Museum Gallery of Art, New Hampshire. In 2015, she was included in *The Sentimental Image* at the DeCordova

Museum, Lincoln, MA, curated by Nick Capasso and Alexandra Novina. Her work will be in *Cannot be Described in Words: Drawing/Daring*," at the Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA, curated by Deborah Davidson.

Kingston Gallery is an artist-run alternative space founded in 1982. The gallery is committed to exhibiting the work of established and emerging artists. It hosts one-person and group exhibitions by gallery members and provides exhibition opportunities for guest artists in its Center Gallery. The gallery is located in Boston's historic South End between Harrison Avenue and Albany Street in the vibrant SoWA gallery district.

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Image: Ilona Anderson, *Arcology 2*, 2015, 59 x 95 inches, gouache and Lascaux Acrylics on archival papers.