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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wonderland: Landscape Photographs by Mary Lang

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (February 1, 2017) – The Kingston Gallery is proud to present *Wonderland: Landscape Photographs by Mary Lang* May 3 - 28, 2017 with an opening reception Friday, May 5, 5:30-8pm. This exhibit of photographs continues Lang’s ongoing exploration of the elemental nature of the phenomenal world. For Lang, landscape is a way of experiencing space. A meandering path or the shape of a hill draws one into the space. Where the horizon falls defines the relationship between earth and sky, sky and water, or water and earth. As a photographer, Lang arranges this within the frame of her viewfinder, making it resonate with how she perceives the world. In her work there is both emptiness and presence, the mark of humans on the land but very few humans within the frame.

The photographs in *Wonderland* incorporate both meanings of “wonder”; amazement and uncertainty. Some of these landscapes are not real, but are model railroad environments. At first glance, it’s hard to tell which ones are real, and which are models. The photographs of models seem to make the photographs of the “real” landscapes feel a bit unreal, with uncertainty about size and scale. Intrigued by this uncertainty, Lang has photographed at model railroad clubs and museums in San Diego, CA, Portland, OR, Victoria, BC and elsewhere on her travels, exploring wonder in landscapes of all sizes.

Lang’s work has long been informed by her meditation practice and the Buddhist teachings that the world we perceive is like an illusion, as vivid as a dream but just as insubstantial. Habitually our grasping minds solidify perception the way a camera shutter freezes a moment of time. Looking closely, or stepping back a few feet, reveals the unreality, the illusion, the constructed nature of these miniature worlds. Of her work Lang says, “These images point at the possibility that we could lift the veil of illusion on our full-size worlds, the ones that we solidify and inhabit day to day, the portable stage sets that convince us that our truth is the truth, and not something we constructed as our own model version of the world.”

Mary Lang was included in the 2004 DeCordova Annual Exhibit and was a recipient of an Artists Grant-in-Aid award from the St. Botolph Club Foundation in 2006. She has been an artist-in-residence at Crater Lake National Park and at the Weir Farm in CT. Her 2014 one-person retrospective exhibit, *Like Water*, at the Trustman Gallery at Simmons College was reviewed by Mark Feeny in *The Boston Globe*. She exhibits locally, as well as in galleries in Washington DC, Seattle, WA and Portland, OR. Her work has been reviewed in *The Boston Globe* and *Art New England* and is included in collections at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Fogg Museum at Harvard, the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, and the Fidelity Corporate Collection, among others. She holds a MFA in Photography from Pratt Institute and a BA from Smith College. She teaches meditation and Shambhala Buddhism at the Boston Shambhala Center in Brookline. This is her ninth solo exhibit at the Kingston Gallery.

On view in the Members’ Gallery is work by the late Stacey Alickman, a long-time member of Kingston Gallery and an important presence in the Boston art community for more than twenty

years. *In Memory: works by Stacey Alickman* exemplifies a fascination with paint and free-flowing experimentation with additive and reductive techniques, sanding down layers of paint to allow for underpainting to come through, and building surface that speaks to the perception of texture rather than just texture itself. Often allowing the physical aspects of the paint to assert itself, Alickman conveys a transcendence of medium.

An artist-run gallery incorporated in 1982, Kingston Gallery exhibits work of Boston-area contemporary artists. Gallery Artists specialize in a diverse range of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, and installation. Kingston Gallery exhibitions are widely viewed and receive regular attention in both print and online publications including *Art in America*, *Art New England*, *ArtScope*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Big Red & Shiny*. Gallery hours are Wednesday–Sunday 12–5 pm and by appointment.

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For more information about Kingston Gallery visit: kingstongallery.com