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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

***Strategic Planning, Chantal Zakari***  
**in the Main Gallery, January 3–28, 2018**  
**Opening Reception: Friday, January 5, 5:00–8:00 pm**

**SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (October 20, 2017)** – Chantal Zakari’s *Strategic Planning* explores the hollow vocabulary that passes for symbols of positive change everywhere one looks. The exhibition title adopted from the business term “Strategic Plan,” originated in the military and is now a staple of universities, liberal arts colleges, and even art schools. Zakari focuses on academic administrations and their response to financial stress, largely due to a shrinking student population caused by enormous increases in tuition. ***Strategic Planning is on view in the Kingston Main Gallery January 3–28, 2018 with a SoWa First Fridays opening reception on Friday, January 5, 5:00–8:00 pm.*** The function of the term is to imply a dedication to improvements for the institution’s immediate future which without the appropriate leadership falls short and stands as an empty promise. Zakari displays corporate vernacular on flags, pennants, and banners along with collected visual symbols from various historical periods. Using popular terms such as SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats), Competitive Landscape, Global Imperative, and Innovation Catalyst, her objects stand as reminders of the true ideals of higher education that are at risk.

In her work Chantal Zakari draws upon contemporary social issues by making connections through personal narratives, history and popular culture. Inspired by social phenomena she positions herself in relationship to a public or a sub-culture. Her studio practice freely combines research methodologies and artistic strategies borrowed from various disciplines such as photography, documentary, installation, graphic design and social interventions. The work in *Strategic Planning* is an accumulation of these interests presented with irony and aplomb. An integral component of *Strategic Planning* is the accompanying artist’s book designed in the style of a product catalog. Here, the banners are seen within context, in

college-specific spaces such as faculty offices, dorm rooms, libraries and art studios as commentary on the public plight of institutions' struggles within their own walls.

Chantal Zakari is an interdisciplinary artist, designer and art educator; a Turkish-Levantine and US citizen, residing in the Boston area. *Shelter in Plates*, a collaborative piece with her husband Mike Mandel, is in the collection of Yale University, The Addison Gallery and The Fitchburg Art Museum. Her artist's books are in many private and public artist's books collection. Zakari has had solo shows, book readings and performances nationally and internationally and is currently a Professor of the Practice at Tufts University, School of the Museum of Fine Arts. This is her first solo show at Kingston Gallery.

On view concurrently in the Kingston Project Space is *New Work*, two large-scale drawings by Barbara Moody. Moody's drawings are created with ink, charcoal, collage, and gesso on Tyvek and paper. Her exuberant and intense mark-making ignites her surfaces with energy, displaying her interest in visual complexity and the contrast between density and open space. The drawings describe interior spaces, where objects shift and collide: forms float in space, sink, or tilt precariously in the disorienting environment.

In the Kingston Center Gallery is an exhibition by Veronica A Pérez, the 2016-17 Kingston Gallery Emerging Artist. In her collection of works, *untitled*, Pérez is inspired by potent words used to define and suggest, confuse and confound. When words lack the ability to convey certain emotions she turns to materials, creating sculptural objects of concrete, metal and human hair, as vehicles through which the unknown becomes understandable.

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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