



Contact:
Jessica Burko, Director of Marketing
Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave, No. 43
Boston, MA 02118
Direct: 617-462-9353
jburko@kingstongallery.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Gray Area
an exhibition juried by Members of Kingston Gallery
January 31–February 25, 2018
Opening Reception: February 2, 2018, 5:00–8:00 pm

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (December 15, 2017) – In such a time of great uncertainty there is a growing feeling of unease; we reside in the spaces between a world of absolutes. The collection of work in *Gray Area* addresses a range of situations not readily conforming to an existing set of rules. As the color gray encompasses a multitude of mutable tonalities, both coloristically and metaphorically, the works on display offer multitudes of creative clarity. ***Gray Area is on view at Kingston Gallery January 31 – February 25, 2018*** with a SoWa First Fridays opening reception on **Friday, February 2, 5–8 pm**.

Gray Area is the first exhibition for the Kingston Gallery juried by Member Artists, Mira Cantor, Susan Emmerson, Julie Graham, Veronica Perez, Jamal Thorne, Chantal Zakari. Twelve guest artists from the New England region will show work in media ranging from painting, photography, and sculpture to video and installation. Included artists in this poignantly subtle exhibition are Lesley Cohen, Gary Duehr, Carol Greenwood, Marilyn Levin, Ruth Lozner, Kelsey Miller, Carole Nataf, Eric Peterson, Rebecca Skinner, Kate Snow, Brendan Stecchini, and Mark Stock. “The artists in this show were selected from a competitive field of over 100 entries, resulting in very strong work which addresses the many interpretations of gray area,” said Kingston Member and jurist, Julie Graham. “We have pieces reflecting the formal definition of gray, a color, as well as work that is more about the in-between, the indefinite, the political and the conceptual. We paid attention to the cross references between the pieces in the show, which create a larger dialogue and commentary on the world we inhabit.”

Included in this dynamic collection are Carole Nataf’s portraits questioning the gray area of image ownership. Nataf’s selfie subjects, re-imagined as paintings, explore the permanence of

social media visuals, despite their immediacy and digital nature. Like Nataf, Gary Duehr's images are also culled from the web but his are "Unknown Suspects," headshots seen as shadowy forms in graphite. These anonymous heads act as a kind of Rorschach test for our collective unconscious. In Eric Peterson's photographs, we find ourselves in a "communion with strangers" not knowing where we are, lost in a crowd. These bear thematic dialogue to Rebecca Skinner's images that envelope the viewer in unknown and abandoned spaces.

Leading the idea of gray area into a different sphere, Brenden Stecchini's megaphones are sculptures designed to be interactive speaking and listening posts that change how we connect with our world. Bringing politics into the mix, Mark Stock's video, *Guernica 2011*, is a re-imagining of Picasso's famous anti-war work, hiding the tragedy within a slowly shifting and opaque grey smoke, much as modern armies conduct their aggression in the shadows and corners, attempting to stay out of view. Another approach to political unrest included in this show are the prints and installation of Kelsey Miller. Ruth Lozner's *Color Stories* use provocative "labels" juxtaposed to photographs which aim to evoke responses that can range from humor to hurt, familiarity to discomfort and ambiguity to clarity.

Rounding out *Gray Area* with imagery full of mystery, Marilyn Levin's portraits come from a tradition of painterly abstraction, connoting difference, diversity and 'other' while Carol Greenwood's sculptural installations are tense and edgy, with the foreboding feeling that something is amiss. Similar to Greenwood's constructions, Kate Snow draws with a limited palette, using minimalism to ask complex questions with subtle means, and the abstract charcoal mark-making of Lesley Cohen's new work juxtaposes dynamic digging for meaning in spare lines and white spaces.

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.

###

For press-ready images contact Jessica Burko: 617-462-9353, jburko@kingstongallery.com

For more information about Kingston Gallery visit: kingstongallery.com