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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Mira Cantor, *Promiseland*, in the main and center galleries  
Judith Brassard Brown, *Dreams Within*, in the Kingston project space  
October 31 – December 2, 2018  
Opening Reception: November 2, 5–8pm**

**A conversation between Pamela Allara & Mira Cantor: Saturday, December 1, 2pm**

**SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (September 20, 2018)** – We are in a *deja vu* moment. Looking back at the social and political upheaval of past decades, it is hard to say we have moved forward. We are treading water, realizing that we as a nation are still built upon greed, domination and white male power at the expense of the preamble to our Constitution and our moral conscience. Mira Cantor's *Promiseland* is an installation of sculptures and drawings built as a metaphor for hope **on view from October 31st through December 2nd, with an opening reception on First Friday November 2nd, 5–8pm. On Saturday, December 1st at 2pm the gallery will host a conversation between Cantor and Pamela Allara, Professor Emeritus from Tufts University and Brandeis. Their discussion will focus on the topic of integration as a white artist creating this powerful body of work featuring people of all colors.**

The collection of works in *Promiseland* function as a mini-retrospective for Mira Cantor. The focus of the installation is a revisited version of older work from as early as the late 1980s mixed with a more recent series entitled *Flesh*. Life-sized figures are suspended throughout the gallery, ranging in height from four to seven feet, constructed of recycled clothing and painted canvas that's been sewn and stuffed. Surrounding the figures are oversized charcoal and acrylic drawings made between 1997 and 2007 that create dialogue with the sculptures through their close juxtaposition. As Cantor made each individual three-dimensional figure, many of whom look familiar, they became a troupe. Inhabiting different costumes and conveying disparate personalities, they become a group brought together by fate rather than choice. *Promiseland* focuses on issues Cantor first explored with her work in the 1960s and 70s, questioning how to do the right thing, how to overcome the insidious brainwashing and lack of education that compromises our judgement in a time of national crisis. Summing up the viewer's experience of

the installation are words by Pamela Allara from the exhibition catalog essay, “The figures in *Promiseland* urge us to think about the human condition at present and our place in it. When we stand in the gallery and ask ‘Who are these people?’ we must acknowledge that we are part of this group.”

Mira Cantor was born in New York City and graduated with an MFA from the University of Illinois in Champaign–Urbana. She established her career in painting, drawing and mixed–media sculpture when she was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at MIT from 1978–80. She was awarded a Fulbright in 1994–95 to Alexandria, Egypt where she taught and exhibited her work at the American Center. Her solo shows include the Tokyo American Center in Japan, the BWA Gallery in Krakow, Poland, Hampshire College, De Cordova Museum, Fitchburg Art Museum, The Contemporary Arts Center, Honolulu, and Gallery Lohrl in Dusseldorf. Cantor’s work is included in the collections of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Honolulu Academy of Arts, and the Contemporary Arts Center of Honolulu. Currently, Mira Cantor is a professor at Northeastern University where she has been teaching art for 28 years. She has been a member of the Kingston Gallery in Boston since 2013.

On view concurrently in the Kingston Project Space is *Dreams Within*, new paintings by Judith Brassard Brown that speak to the narratives we construct in response to traumatic events from childhood or beyond. Like disparate elements arising as we sleep, or coordinated in paintings, *Dreams Within* offers departure points to question, revisit or reprocess experience. In Brown’s paintings fragments of images are combined with fragmented memories of personal history. Brown teaches freshman and upper level courses in the Foundation and Painting Departments at Montserrat College of Art where she founded the Summer Intensive Studio Program in Viterbo, Italy. She’s returned to teach most years in July and occasionally directs the program. Judith Brassard Brown’s work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions at the Danforth Museum, Framingham, MA, the Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA, Soho20, New York, NY, Cerulean Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, HallSpace, Boston, MA, and venues in Viterbo and Trieste, Italy.

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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