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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Elif Soyer, *Balance Due*, in the Main and Center Galleries
Jamal Thorne, *Bootleg DeLorean*, in the Project Space
February 28 – April 1, 2018
Opening Reception: Friday, March 2, 5:00–8:00 pm**

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (January 15, 2018) – The mixed-media works in Elif Soyer’s upcoming exhibition, *Balance Due*, a unique method of non-traditional journaling, provide detailed insight into the artist’s multifaceted life. *Balance Due* is on view in the Kingston Main and Center Galleries February 28–April 1, 2018 with a SoWa First Fridays opening reception on Friday, March 2, 5:00–8:00 pm. Comprised of ephemera harvested from daily deliveries of mail, Soyer refers to her meticulously constructed works as journals in a different language. The received correspondence and “junk mail” is cut into small bits and bytes of life and pasted into grids on wooden panels, enhanced by acrylic paint and pencil in several of the works.

For Soyer, daily routine creates a sense of safety from which she ventures out to do not-so-routine things, like creating art by sewing pieces of textile together to create neural networks turned into stuffed toy-like sculpture, or training Olympic hopefuls and national champions in fencing. She sees routine also imposed on her through the constant flow of information that comes via “snail-mail” into her home and workplace, “I bring the mail in... information sent to me, information of me... I sort through and keep what I need to live my life and shred and/or recycling the rest.” At some point, this routine, like any routine, becomes a cycle and the cycle takes hold. Thinking too much about the cycle makes the comfort in it start to fade away and a semi-nihilistic shadow creeps in and threatens to stop the action. Recontextualizing and parsing out what can be termed capitalistic info-garbage is the artist’s way of interacting with the mundane. By building these visual diaries in grid formations she reclaims routine and recreates safe space.

Elif Soyer is a Turkish–American artist. She received a BA in Economics from Emory University in 1985, a studio diploma in 1995 and a MFA in 1997 from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She is also a fencing coach and co-owner of Moe Fencing Club in Somerville, MA where she trains Olympic hopefuls, weekend warriors and some of the top-ranked fencers in the US. Her work has oscillated between the interior landscape of the human body and the exterior landscape of her immediate environment, but has always had a very strong tie to time, through layering or other seemingly obsessive processes. While she loves the process of painting and drawing, she has a very strong attraction to so-called “non-traditional” mediums such as gravel, discarded textile, raw clay and scraps of day to day life.

On view concurrently in the Kingston Project Space is *Bootleg Delorean*, new paintings by Jamal Thorne, composite experiences that embody the dynamic of delving into the past while being confronted with the idiosyncrasies of the present. Events unfold and time moves forward. Thorne builds layers of paint and tape covering textured surfaces, with a process informed by the civil rights movement, current and past. Each new layer preserves and makes an impression while some elements from the previous layers are lost. For Thorne the process of cutting deep into the accumulating layers serves to mimic the act of reclaiming a connection to the past, while the finished work is a documentation of shared experience.

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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