

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michèle Fandel Bonner Confronts our Habits of Consumption at Kingston Gallery

Boston, MA - Kingston Gallery is pleased to host a solo exhibition by Michèle Fandel Bonner. The Marblehead-based artist's show, *Time & Materials*, includes three pieces that demonstrate her experience with fibers and her skill with integrating reclaimed items.

On View: April 3-25, 2015

Reception: Friday, April 3, 5:30 – 8 PM

The works transform accumulated, mundane materials into Bonner's own innovative expressions. *Hide III* addresses how we use clothing to both hide and express ourselves. It is one of a triptych Bonner made by sewing clothing labels onto cloth backings shaped like animal skins.

The tags' varying rectangles create an appealing rhythm and allude to the many types of clothing they once were a part of. The clothes were rejected from Lifebridge thrift shop in Salem, MA, where Bonner has volunteered for five years, teaching residents to knit. After Bonner removes the tags, the clothes are sold to a fiber recycler who shreds them. She says, "styles change so fast that we no longer wear out clothing but dispose of it needlessly." The expanses of tags, each one visible in her artwork, is as much about what is not there as what is. Although indiscriminate in choosing labels for this project, pulling them from coats, shirts, dresses, sports clothing, pajamas, and more, Bonner cleans and sorts each one by size and color before intuitively selecting the tags that she sews onto the fabric.

Empty Nesting Baskets is a series of eighteen nesting baskets made of recycled t-shirts that have been shredded into yarn and then crocheted. **Watching Myself Go Grey** is an accumulation of the artist's hair she has collected since August 2012. Bonner notes the color change and presents her hair in a timeline format, continuing and unfinished.

Michèle Fandel Bonner is a sculptor and fiber artist. A member of the Marblehead Arts Association, her works have been shown at regional arts festivals and other venues from North Carolina to Massachusetts. She sculpts, designs knitting patterns, and teaches fiber techniques and knitting at a local shelter. Bonner holds a BA in Art Therapy from the University of Massachusetts and lives with her husband and son in Marblehead, Massachusetts.

Time & Materials is in Kingston's Main Gallery from April 3-25, 2015. Kingston's Center Gallery will feature the work of Conny Goelz-Schmitt; the Member's Gallery will feature the work of Ann Wessman.

Kingston Gallery is an artist-run alternative space founded in 1982. The gallery is committed to exhibiting

the work of established and emerging artists. It hosts one-person and group exhibitions by gallery members and provides exhibition opportunities for non-members in its Center Gallery. The gallery is located in Boston's historic South End between Harrison Avenue and Albany Street in the vibrant SoWA gallery district.

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Images:

Empty Nesting Baskets, 2015, recycled t-shirts, 18.5" X 18.5" X 12"

Hide III, 2014, clothing labels and cotton/linen backing fabric, 53" X 54"