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Hilary Tolan's Shadowland on View at Kingston Gallery in November

BOSTON, MA, September 17, 2015 - Kingston Gallery is pleased to present *Shadowland*, a group of perception-shifting images of the wilderness by Hilary Tolan. She alters her own photographs of landscapes, building on concepts that absorbed her in previous bodies of work, manipulating images of the landscape with minute details which encourage a slower pace.

On View: November 4 - 29, 2015

First Friday Opening Reception: Friday, November 6, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Shadowland marks the first time Tolan takes her subject outside of the Eastern United States. This current group of photos was taken in Utah, with the bleached, brilliant light of that setting inspiring her alterations. She first used this technique of altering photographs with paint in her 2012 series, *Floating World*. For the works in *Shadowland*, Tolan uses several shades of black gouache to subtly create and extend shadows in each scene. Her marks respond to the images directly, either enhancing existing forms, or alternatively approaching the photograph in a drawing mode by adding new shapes. In a sense, she has a conversation with each scene, and the resulting marks are very specific to each work.

"I'm interested in 'landscape' as a big, wide concept and subject, including the tension between touristy photographs and photography as art," said Tolan. The photographs don't depict sweeping vistas and broad horizons. A few images were taken as she walked down unassuming paths. Tolan wants each work to stand on its own as a photograph, a goal we may intuit by how subtly she alters them. Her marks impose something new, but the change could be easily missed by even seasoned art viewers. From an oblique angle, one may note a contrast in sheen from the shiny surface of the photograph to that of the matte paint. Her alterations demonstrate sensitivity to the tones and shapes of the original image. In some cases, the increased darkness conjures a sense of foreboding, and in others it provides a neutral optical shift. The series was both meditative for her to make, and will likely prove meditative for audiences to view.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Hilary Tolan is a Boston-area artist born in Port Jefferson, New York. She completed her Master's in Art Education in the Artist/Teacher program at Massachusetts College of Art in 2002 and she received her BFA from Purchase College, New York. Tolan's work has been reviewed by the Boston Globe, the Boston Phoenix, Art New England, and Artscope. She has been a resident at the Brydcliff Artist colony at the Woodstock Guild in New York and was an artist in residence at the Hambidge Center, GA in 2008. Hilary creates her work using a range of materials, including photography, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and installation. She has gallery affiliations Kingston Gallery in Boston and *DRIVE-BY/bk projects* gallery in Watertown, MA.

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 guest artists 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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Image: Hilary Tolan, *Dirt Path*, photograph with gouache, 23 x 34", 2015.