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Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave. #43
Boston, MA 02118
617.423.4113
www.kingstongallery.com

Contact: Shana Dumont Garr
sgarr@kingstongallery.com
Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 12-5 pm
and by appointment: 978.998.2443

Greg Lookerse's Exhibition, *Everything is God To Me and Everything is Dust to Me*, at Kingston Gallery

BOSTON, MA, October 27, 2015 - Kingston Gallery is pleased to present *Everything is God To Me and Everything is Dust to Me*, a solo exhibition by Greg Lookerse. The exhibition integrates sculptural and performative works to create a space for critical and dynamic engagement with literature, ritual, spirituality, and self-consciousness.

On View: December 2 - 27, 2015
First Friday Opening Reception: Friday, December 4, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Referencing and incorporating literary works can be found in many of Lookerse's works, and for this exhibition, he incorporates both meaning and literal pages from Annie Dillard's *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, and Teilhard de Chardin's *The Divine Milieu*. Lookerse draws from the conceptual essence of Dillard's text discussing how sacrifice adds meaning to effort, including ritual. He references Dillard's description of human will in his own work, saying, "Every performance is an action or ritual through which I try to suppress my self-consciousness and tilt my will so that the work may flow through it." Similarly inspired by the work of de Chardin, a French philosopher and Jesuit priest (1881 - 1955), Lookerse references de Chardin's message about how to sense the divine by drawing close to physical things. Sufficient attention may generate eventual recognition and praise of the divine.

The gallery will contain a large hexagonal structure built by Lookerse, surrounded by twelve stones. Lookerse carved holes into the stones and filled their voids with a mixture of charcoal and honey. His performance will engage with this framework and last the duration of the exhibition. He will layer the floor of the structure with pages from *Teaching a Stone to Talk* and *The Divine Milieu* and place a stone submerged in black ink on the pages. Throughout the month, Lookerse will ritually enter the space and attempt to teach the stone to speak, specifically focusing on teaching it to utter the word "father." He will track the number of times he performed the ritual on a calendar placed outside of the structure. Throughout the performance, Lookerse will remove the rock from the ink, dripping ink onto the book pages. For the artist, the structured space and the practice of repetition are essential contributors to the work. Rationally, he will not measure the success of his work by whether the rock

speaks. Instead, he hopes to learn to what the rock is already, non-verbally, saying.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Greg Lookerse is an interdisciplinary artist working primarily in video, sculpture and performance since 2009. Originally from California, he works in Boston and the New England area while exhibiting his work internationally. His work revolves around the incongruities of the physical and metaphysical, often directly dealing with the way in which religious practices use nature to symbolize the transcendent. Lookerse's work has been reviewed in Art New England and the Gloucester Daily Times, among other publications. He received his MFA from Tufts University in conjunction with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston in 2014. He has been the Emerging Artist member of Kingston Gallery for the past year. This show is the culmination of his membership.

Also at Kingston Gallery in December: *How to Feel Real*, Main Gallery, with Stacey Alickman, Kellie Bornhoft, Linda Leslie Brown, and Hilary Tolan. Curated by Shana Dumont Garr. *Mary Lang: Nothing That Is Not There*, Members' Gallery. **First Friday Opening Reception:** December 4, 5:30–8:00 pm.

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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