

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kingston Gallery Hosts *How to Feel Real*, a Group Exhibition About Authenticity in a Virtual Age

BOSTON, MA, November 4, 2015 - Kingston Gallery is pleased to present *How to Feel Real*, a group exhibition including work by Stacey Alickman, Kellie Bornhoft, Linda Leslie Brown, and Hilary Tolan. Curated by Shana Dumont Garr, it brings work together to scrutinize who we are becoming, a full generation into the existence of the internet and the common ownership of smartphones. Simple, essential things such as dirt, trees, animals, and other human beings become astonishing in the context of the virtual era.

On View: December 2 - 27, 2015

First Friday Opening Reception: Friday, December 4, 5:30–8:00 pm

The four artists in *How to Feel Real* use a range of media, including kinetic sculpture, painting, and photography, to point out rituals or systems that either keep us from feeling at home with ourselves, or bring us back. Often, to be a good worker, tethered to laptops and smartphones, means becoming a sad human. “Grounding” is the term for the benefits one may receive when walking barefoot on the ground, because it transfers electrons from the earth to the body. “Dirt therapy” refers to the therapeutic effects of touching dirt, as it transfers beneficial microbes to the body. That these terms exist demonstrates the distance many people have from their surroundings, literally and mentally, and how plants, dirt, and someone’s gaze can feel mystical and rare in the context of a life led predominantly through screens.

The robust physicality of Stacey Alickman’s paintings make the experience of viewing them resonate on aesthetic and emotional levels. The brushstrokes are rhythmic, forming repeating, schematic shapes and lines that radiate from multiple points. Kellie Bornhoft is a multi-media artist whose works integrate real and synthetic plants, household items and materials, and traditional media. She created kinetic, site-specific works for this exhibition, to be displayed with two of her videos. Bornhoft’s work questions our romantic relationship with nature and seeks to clarify how we define it in reference to our own humanity. Linda Leslie Brown’s sculptures bring found objects together in tenuous formations, with no defined beginning or end, referencing human flesh with paper clay, plaster and ceramic doll parts. As Brown said, “our culture is in expectation of the apocalypse, and these sculptures take on the quality of a future ruin.” The sculptures also have qualities of shamanistic power objects with abilities to foster healing. The subjects of photographs from Hilary Tolan’s *Suburban Garden* series are flowers and other plants in residential yards of Medford, MA. Tolan locates a balance between vernacular style, benign neglect, and beauty, framing the photos so that they capture the sincerity and care inherent in each garden’s existence, and fulfilling her own need to see something real while inhabiting a semi-urban environment.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Stacey Alickman is a painter and illustrator based in Cambridge, MA. She has a degree from Brandeis University, studied graphic design at the Massachusetts College of Art, and painting at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts. Her work has been featured in publications including *Drum Literary Magazine*, *Big Red & Shiny*, and *The Boston Globe*. Her "Pulling The Legs Off Bugs Project" was successfully funded through USA Projects in Los Angeles, CA in 2012, and she received grants from both the Coleman Foundation and Berkshire Taconic Association in 2014 and 2015.

Kellie Bornhoft lives and works in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 2013, she received her BFA from Watkins College of Art, Film & Design, in Nashville, TN. Bornhoft founded artist collective Co. H and directed Seed Space's Community Supported Art (CSArt) program. In 2015, Bornhoft was a Regional Emerging Artist in Residence at Artspace in Raleigh, and is currently participating in BURNAWAY's Emerging Art Writers Mentorship Program. Her work included in the 2015 exhibition *The Nothing That Is* (curated by Bill Thelen and Jason Polan at the Contemporary Art Museum Raleigh) was reviewed in the latest print of Frieze Magazine.

Linda Leslie Brown studied at School of the Museum of Fine Arts and received her MA in Painting from Rhode Island School of Design. Her recent exhibitions include the Worcester Art Museum and I-Park Foundation, East Haddam, CT. Brown is a full-time professor of Foundation Studies & Fine Arts and the Program Director of Foundation Studies at Suffolk University. Artist's residencies include Popop International, Nassau, Bahamas, I-Park, CT and Hambidge Center for the Arts, GA.

Hilary Tolan is a Boston-area artist who 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. 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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Also at Kingston Gallery in December: Greg Lookerse, *Everything is God To Me and Everything is Dust to Me*, Center Gallery, and Mary Lang, *Nothing that is not there*, Members' Gallery. First Friday Opening Reception: December 4, 5:30–8:00 pm.

Image: Kellie Bornhoft, *Here to There as Place (Readings from Alexander Wilson)*, video still.