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**Mira Cantor Takes on Global Warming
with a New Painting series, “Inundated,” at Kingston Gallery**

BOSTON, MA, August 22, 2016 - Kingston Gallery is proud to present “Inundated,” a solo exhibition by Artist Member Mira Cantor. In the works, the horizon and ocean waves serve as metaphors for processing contemporary issues regarding the landscape and sociology. Featuring paintings and drawings from her 2016 residency at the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan, on the west coast of Ireland, viewers may witness a collision of beauty and anxiety. Her works express both the artist's observation of the sea and her contemplation of the global change that she directly perceived while there.

On View: October 5 - 30, 2016

First Friday Opening Reception: Friday, October 7, 5:30-8:00 pm

The Artist in Conversation with Pennie Taylor: Saturday, October 15, 3:00 pm

The shoreline’s unique combination of vulnerability, changeability, and power from the persistent movement of the waves proves a consistent source of inspiration for Cantor. The resulting paintings reflect the dramatic landscape in the Burren, which is part of western Ireland. Steep cliffs overlook the sea, and paths that once rimmed the coast are now gone, due to erosion. In her paintings, robust brushstrokes push the oceanic imagery toward abstraction, synthesizing aerial and shoreline views, at times flanking the edges with flat, geometric sections that allude to national flags. She said, “The ocean takes on the ‘between,’ a metaphor for all disparities and separations but also a force that unites.” This powerful symbolism resonates throughout the rhythmic compositions.

Cantor continues, “The paintings allude to political and social barriers as these walls of water hover.” Her art expresses her perception of the fractured state of society, and a sense of impending doom. The ocean serves as an apt symbol to express the perils of global warming, as well as the violence sending refugees toward bodies of water to find safe haven on other shores, and the overwhelming amount of information distributed by the media. Consciously or not, the average person is inundated with information, and continuously prompted to parse to what degree each news story is skewed. The feeling of urgency when faced with torrents-of data, of crisis, of water—comes across in the paintings.

Cantor's previous works have also focused on the landscape and society. She created architectural elevations in the series *Silver Lake* in 2005, and has also responded to mountain ranges, snow, and how the land meets the sea in her last exhibition, *Meltwater*, in 2013. *Inundated* continues that interest, now solely with water. This essential element symbolizes the irony that ice caps melt, floods result, and in the midst of habitat imbalance, drinking water becomes ever rarer and more expensive. The

paintings and drawings locate viewers in a position of incipient immersion, treading to keep their heads above the ever-rising tides.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Mira Cantor was born in New York. She attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana where she received an MFA in painting and drawing. In 1994, Cantor was awarded a Fulbright to Alexandria, Egypt where she taught and presented a solo exhibition of her work at the American Cultural Center. Her many solo exhibitions include the Tokyo American Center in Japan, the BWA Gallery in Krakow, Poland, Gallery Lohrl in Dusseldorf, Germany as well as Hampshire College Gallery, MA, the deCordova Museum, MA, the Fitchburg Art Museum, MA, the Contemporary Art Museum in Honolulu, HI and three one person exhibitions at the Genovese-Sullivan Gallery in Boston. Her drawings have been exhibited at the Vienna Biennale, Norwegian Biennale and biennales in Yugoslavia and Poland.

Cantor's work is in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Simmons College, Honolulu Academy of Fine Arts, Northeastern University and many private and corporate collections here and abroad. She has been an artist in residence at the Banff Center in Canada twice and at the Burren College of Art in Ireland. Cantor lives and works in Boston and is a Professor of Art at Northeastern University. This will be her second solo exhibition at the Kingston Gallery.

Also at Kingston Gallery in October: Rose Olson, *four-squared*, Members' Gallery. **First Friday Opening Reception:** October 7, 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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Image: Mira Cantor, *Wow*, acrylic on canvas, 120 x 60 inches, 2016.