



Press Contact:
Krystle Brown
Marketing Director
978-726-8759
marketing@kingstongallery.com

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave, No. 43
Boston, MA 02118
617-423-4113

Kingston Gallery Presents

Whistling in the Dark

A Juried Group Exhibition

In the Main Gallery, the Center Gallery, and the Project Space Gallery

**July 28 to August 29, 2021
Opening Reception August 6, 2021, 5:00 - 8:00 pm**

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (June 7, 2021) – Kingston Gallery members Jeessoo Lee and Jamal Thorne, with guest jurist Lavaughan Jenkins, read James Baldwin's interview with Studs Terkel. Then, with the interview fresh in their minds, the jurors focused on what it means to be disruptive and all the stories that people have to tell. Acknowledging the institutional tradition of minimizing some stories while amplifying others, Lee, Thorne, and Jenkins chose to take this opportunity to amplify voices that have been minimized. Difficult conversations are unfolding. Challenges are addressed under a critical scope. And above all, there is a need for optimism.

The artists selected for this group exhibition make work that tells stories in response to this transformative moment. *Whistling in the Dark* features the following artists: **Jaypix Belmer, Madge Evers, Mia Fabrizio, Percy Fortini-Wright, Carol Greenwood, John Greiner-Ferris, Willoughby Lucas Hastings, Michelle Maroon, Jameel Radcliffe, Eileen Taylor, and Chloe Tomasetta.**

Whistling in the Dark presents opportunities for unexpected convergences between the artists and the works they are sharing. Eileen Taylor and Jameel Radcliffe, though from very different worlds of Boston, use painting and drawing to incorporate their emotions into art. In a similar vein, Michelle Maroon sculpts her memories and often imparts elements of wry humor.

For some artists, the relationship with people and their environments drives them to create. John Grenier-Ferris's graphic words in French mimic graffiti and challenge the viewer to wake up. Jaypix Belmer immortalizes Hip Hop culture in iconic portraits. Chloe Tomasetta photographs immigrant markets and shopping scenes to celebrate the democratizing quality of food.

Social and environmental justice themes also prevail. Madge Evers and Willoughby Lucas Hastings explore the colonial past of slavery and white supremacy as well as extinction and the climate crisis in images of threatened lands and John James Audubon's birds.

The interior, whether that be figurative or literal, is yet another theme. Carol Greenwood's drawings in black and white and Percy Fortini-Wright's Nocturnes delve into the personal mindscapes through abstraction or readily identifiable landscapes, while Mia Fabrizio physically constructs/deconstructs elements of the domestic interior.

Full artist statements and press images can be downloaded [here](#). In addition, highlights from each artist are included below.

Kingston Gallery will participate in First Fridays on August 6, 2021. The public is welcome to visit the gallery from noon to 5 pm starting July 28th, the opening day.

Public programming, including artist talks, will be announced closer to the opening of the exhibition.

Jaypix Belmer is a Boston-based documentary photographer whose work captures the "visual soul" of their subjects. Born in Boston, Jaypix has an extreme commitment to storytelling, focusing on the unconsidered people and places in our everyday lives. Through dialogue, Jaypix establishes a strong relationship with the people they photograph, which results in creative image-making - artistically bold portraits that shine a light on individuals, enabling confidence towards the pursuit of their own vision.

Madge Evers is an educator, gardener, and visual artist whose work explores adaptation and connection. Referencing photosynthesis and the ancient collaboration in mycorrhiza, her practice involves foraging for mushrooms and plants and sometimes includes the cyanotype process. In June of 2020, she began to work full-time as an artist after teaching for 25 years in Rhode Island and Massachusetts public schools. Madge now conducts cyanotype workshops for people of all ages. She is a 2021 recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Honorary Mention in Photography.

Mia Fabrizio is an interdisciplinary artist and educator. A 2020 MFA recipient from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, her work addresses topics at the intersection of sociology, architecture and visual art. Recently Fabrizio's work has been displayed at MIT's LabCentral, and was included in *As Above, So Below: 2020 Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition* at Tufts University Art Galleries and the AREACODE|ARTFAIR which took place throughout the greater Boston area last summer. Fabrizio was awarded an *Assets for Artists Residency* at Mass MOCA and a Teaching Fellowship at Tufts University. Native to the Philadelphia area, Fabrizio earned her BFA at Tyler School of Art and a M.Ed. from Arcadia University.

Percy Fortini-Wright is an American Multidisciplinary painter. He received his BFA and MFA from (The Art Institute of Boston) at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. He exhibits internationally in both the public and private spheres creating small and large-scale paintings. Percy's art coalesces the two worlds, blurring the lines between graffiti and fine art. Through his command of depth and perspective, using the spray can and brush, he melds gritty elements of the streets into his fine art

foundations. Percy's life is as diverse as his subjects. He spends his days painting, teaching, and his nights fishing the Cape Cod Canal and tackling the urban landscape. His work has been featured in numerous publications from Juxtapoz magazine to American Art Collector, and he has been featured on WGBH's Open Studio with Jared Bowen and was awarded Boston's Best by the Improper Bostonian in 2015 and Boston Common Magazine "The Artist".

Carol Greenwood was born in Providence, RI, and maintains a studio at Vernon Street in Somerville, MA. She earned a B.A. in English Literature and an M.B.A. in Finance from Boston University and a Studio Diploma from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. Greenwood has shown her work regionally and nationally in solo and group shows and has been included in the Northeast edition of New American Paintings and Boston Voyager Magazine's Thought Provoker Series. Her drawings, paintings, and sculpture are represented in private collections.

John Greiner-Ferris is an artist, a writer (MFA/playwriting/Boston University), and a photographer (BFA/Ohio University). For years, he worked as a corporate and freelance photographer/writer to pay the bills. In 2007 he put down the camera and dedicated himself entirely to his art. He earned his MFA in playwriting from Boston University and founded two theater companies. Then, at a residency in Vermont in January 2017, he again picked up the camera. Today, he continues to work multi-disciplinarily, making art, writing for the theater, writing and photographing for various publications and sites primarily on the arts and sustainability issues, and working with people he feels will make the world a better place. "Sometimes I make images. Sometimes I write. Sometimes I do both."

Willoughby Lucas Hastings is originally from Huntsville, Alabama. She received a Masters of Fine Arts from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. Hastings has exhibited work in the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, and Huntsville Museum of Art, and was included in several gallery and university shows including the Copley Society of Art, Mississippi State University, Birmingham Southern College, Lesley University, and Abigail Ogilvy Gallery. Hastings has received grant funding from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, The City of Boston, MASS Cultural Council, CERT + The Artist's Safety Net, and The Verdant Fund, a Warhol Foundation Regional Re-granting Program. She completed two research fellowships during the 2019-2020 academic year, an Environmental Research Fellowship at Tufts Institute of the Environment and a Post Graduate Teaching Fellowship with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. Hastings will be an Artist-in-Residence at The Studios at MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA, in August 2022. Currently, she is a Drawing and 3D Foundations instructor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and a part-time lecturer for the course Women, Gender, and Race in Animation at Lesley University College of Art & Design.

Michelle Maroon was born in New Britain, Connecticut and now lives and works as an artist in Providence, RI. In 2011 she earned a BFA in Fine Art with a concentration in sculpture from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Her work has been published in *The Boston Globe*. Maroon's abstract paintings and drawings have been exhibited in galleries and private collections in the United States and Canada.

Jameel Radcliffe was born in 1993 and was raised in Boston, MA, where he fostered his artistic practice. Most of Jameel's artistic career has been focused on abstract painting, but his work can range from portraiture to purely abstract works. Jameel received his BFA from Montserrat College of Art in 2017 and has recently had his first solo show at The Flowering Rock, where he displayed a series of abstract works. Jameel currently works as an educator/ mentor to young artists at Artists for Humanity and is painting out of the Dorchester neighborhood. Being of Puerto Rican and Black descent offers a deep well of cultural influences that impact both the creative process and the end result of each piece, as the music, food, and daily experiences within his community show themselves through each mark on his paintings.

Eileen Taylor is a mid-career Boston artist who works in various media, including sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking. She is a real estate broker and appraiser working in the Boston market for 30+ years. And isn't done yet.

Chloe Tomasetta is a student at UMass Boston studying Communication and Art. Her past year was spent working on her senior art capstone project, which will be included in an upcoming exhibition with UMass Boston's University Hall Gallery. In April and May, Tomasetta worked as an installation assistant for Kate Chertavian Fine Art. Tomasetta is a Braintree resident who primarily shoots street photos in bustling areas of Boston. She is inspired by the way photographers Gary Winogrand and Vivian Maier capture daily life in a realistic yet captivating way. Her documentary-style street photographs focus on diversity in the city and she enjoys capturing the uniqueness of her subjects. Tomasetta also creates digital illustrations inspired by her travel photographs and printmaking. She has a strong interest in graphic design. Tomasetta will graduate from UMass Boston this fall and plans to continue pursuing artistic endeavors.

About Kingston Gallery

An artist-run gallery incorporated in 1982, Kingston Gallery is Boston's second oldest such institution presently in operation. The gallery exhibits the work of Boston-area contemporary artists, and features a diverse range of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, and installation. Located in the SoWa district in the South End, the exhibitions are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Wednesday–Sunday 12–5 pm, and by appointment. Our Covid-19 safety guidelines for visitors can be viewed [here](#).

For more information about Kingston Gallery, visit: www.kingstongallery.com

A selection of high-resolution images is available [here](#).

###