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Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave, No. 43
Boston, MA 02118
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The Main Gallery
[Killing Mapepe: Sex and Death in Cold War Vieques](#)
Bonnie Donohue in collaboration with Katherine McCaffrey

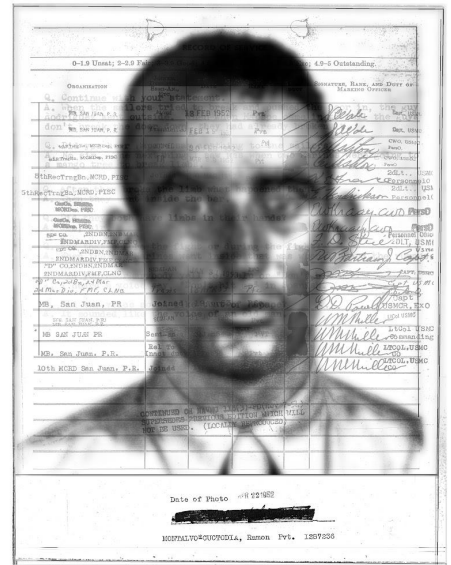
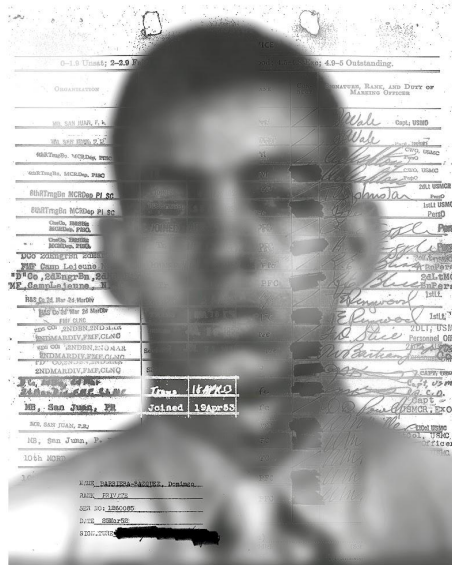
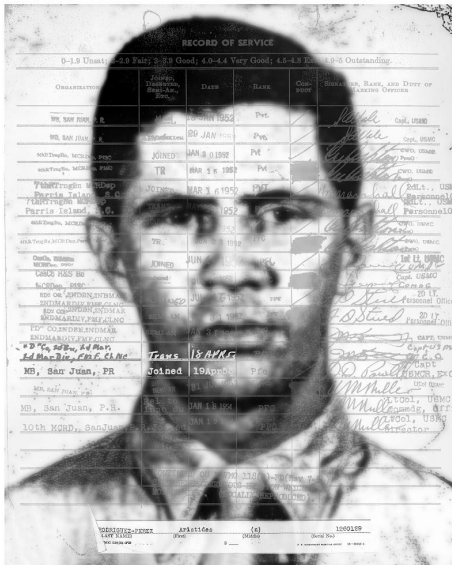
The Center Gallery
[Black Noise](#)
ALPHA Massaquoi Jr.

The Project Space
[I Know I'm Looking at Something](#)
Mary Lang

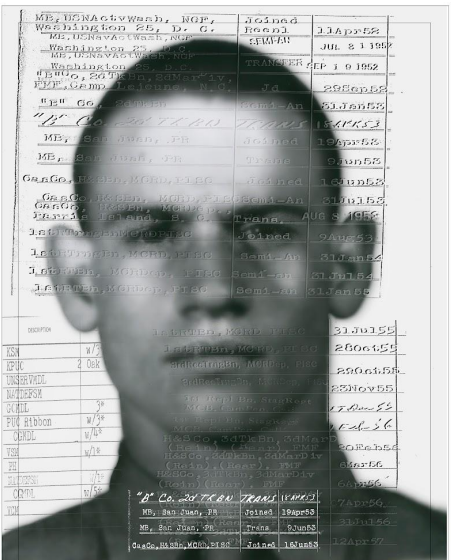
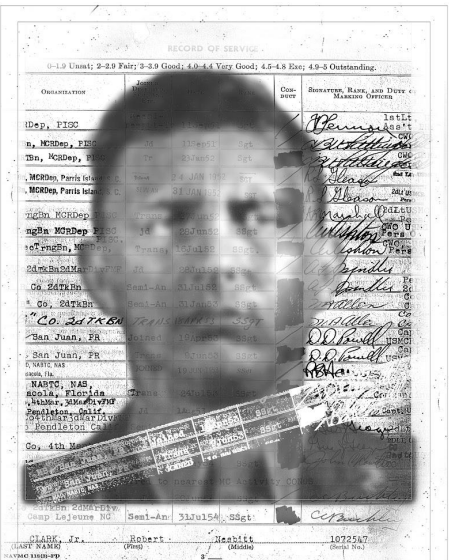
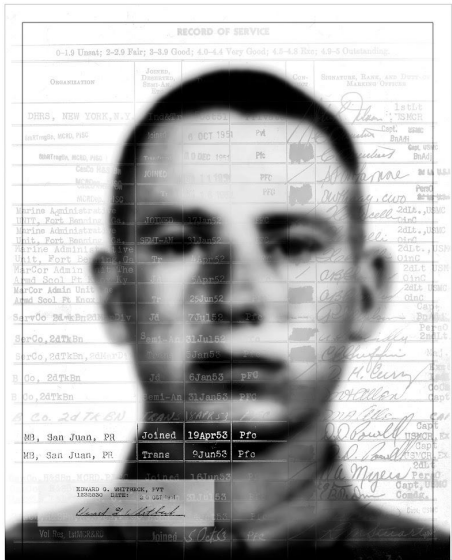
On View from January 31st thru February 25th, 2024
Opening Reception February 2nd, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Events will be announced in January 2024

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (December 4th, 2023) The artists on view in February at Kingston Gallery use their work to bring cultural and political rhetoric into the visual space, as they explore the concepts of the impact of militarized zones on communities, and Black Beauty in America. In the Main Gallery, **Bonnie Donohue** in collaboration with cultural anthropologist **Katherine McCaffrey** creates a conceptually intricate and emotionally challenging exhibition, **[Killing Mapepe: Sex and Death in Cold War Vieques](#)**, by immersing viewers in a scandalous murder of Mapepe Francis that unfolded sixty years ago on an island municipality in Puerto Rico. In the Center Gallery, **Alpha Massaquoi Jr's** portraits are a celebration of Black Joy and Black Beauty in his show **[Black Noise](#)**. In the Project Space, **Mary Lang's** landscape photography explores her inquiry into our tangled inextricable relationship with the planet in **[I Know I'm Looking at Something](#)**.

Main Gallery



USMC Puerto Rican origin: Aristides Rodriguez-Peres, Domingo Barriera-Vazquez, Ramon Montalvo-Custodio, Bonnie Donahue, archival digital prints, 20" x 54", 2011



USMC North American origin: Edward Witbeck, Robert Clark, Jr., Merl F. Bennett, Bonnie Donahue, archival digital prints, 20" x 54", 2011

Killing Mapepe: Sex and Death in Cold War Vieques

In a provocative exhibition, visual artist **Bonnie Donohue** and cultural anthropologist **Katherine McCaffrey** collaboratively focus a lens on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, a rural residential municipality and, until its closure in 2003, the site of a bombing range operated by Roosevelt Roads, the largest US military base in the Western Hemisphere. Donohue and McCaffrey explore the racially charged April 4, 1953, murder of an Afro-Puerto Rican bar owner by white US military personnel, some of whom were on R&R leave from the battlefields of Korea, and some who were training to deploy there for the first time. The fight was fueled by racist rage over a young Puerto Rican prostitute who refused to service the drunken white sailors and marines but negotiated to service some Puerto Rican marines.

Exhibited for the first time in Boston, [*Killing Mapepe: Sex and Death in Cold War Vieques*](#) is a potent visual narrative of sex, desire, race, and nation, that emerges from the intersection of global power and colonial possession. The exhibit visually juxtaposes long buried and misfiled military documents that Donohue discovered in a Navy archive with photos, testimony, and narratives, to reveal the way global power struggles played out in unexpected and intimate ways in colonial locations far from the frontlines of conflict. Donohue and McCaffrey's exhibition sets a new agenda for the study of Cold War politics and political violence in twentieth-century Latin America.

Killing Mapepe: Sex and Death in Cold War Vieques was first exhibited in Vieques at Museo Fuerte Conde de Mirasol from July 2 – November 14, 2011, and later at The Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, San Francisco, November to December 22, 2012. In addition to the exhibition Donohue and McCaffrey have collaborated on several articles and academic presentations of their work.

Bonnie Donohue is Professor of the Practice in Photography at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in Boston. She is a photographer and video artist whose work maps places of disruption, conflict and loss while examining race, class, economy, politics, and cultural erasure. She has worked on the island of Vieques since 2000, during an epic struggle between the civilian population of the island and the US Navy, which used the island for military maneuvers. She exhibited "Vieques: A Long Way Home" in 2006 and installed a permanent public art piece "Vieques: Memory and Imagination" in 2014. She has recently documented the site of the former Iron Curtain in Germany and is currently writing a book about the twentieth century military presence in Vieques.

Katherine McCaffrey is Professor of Anthropology at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She has conducted research on the movement to remove a military live fire range from Vieques, Puerto Rico and subsequent struggles for public health and environmental remediation. She has authored numerous articles and a book, *Military Power and Popular Protest: The US Navy in Vieques, Puerto Rico* (Rutgers University Press 2002).

More Information about **Bonnie Donohue & Katherine McCaffrey** is available here:

[Bonnie Donohue - Kingston Gallery 2024 Main Gallery Show](#)

[Bonnie Donohue | Artist Overview | MutualArt](#)

[Bonnie Donohue – Kingston Gallery](#)

[Bonnie Donohue | School of the Museum of Fine Arts](#)

[Katherine McCaffrey – Montclair State University](#)

[Katherine McCaffrey - The Center for the Humanities](#)

Center Gallery



Mentor of the Year (2020), Alpha Massaquoi, Charcoal on Paper, 60" x 58" , 2020

Black Noise

Guest artist **ALPHA Massaquoi Jr's** exhibition [Black Noise](#) is a celebration of black beauty. For the artist, Black Joy and Black Beauty have been placed in the background by society as an ambient noise meant to be forgotten for too long. Black people are often reminded of their plight and struggles to be seen as humans and nothing less. Massaquoi's goal is to highlight each figure's beauty and dignity, and show a glimpse of the everyday struggle of being Black in America using facial expressions, lighting, and titles.

Black Noise

Planted by a stream of water,
they never did what they utter,
lost cost is what they called us,
cursed by the sins of our fathers,
like Ham, dang, Noah left a damned generation.
But, *imma* celebrate my people,
carving their faces in your mind with precision sharper than a needle,
using color Dirt and charcoal because that's how they see us.
I know Abba sees us,
getting shot on TV by 12 cause, they can't rule us
From the slang to the way we hang our drip, yeah, they want to be us.
Durag, gold chain & hair scarf, call us thugs, detained before eighteen
Keep us in the system and maintained
below the poverty line and in a death loop. (gun shots)

Alpha Massaquoi (2023)

ALPHA Massaquoi Jr. is a Baltimore based artist that works primarily with large drawings made with charcoal and pastels. Alpha was born in West Africa, Liberia, as the youngest of four to an upper-middle-class family; his father worked as a florist for the United States embassy in Liberia, and his mother was a Fashion designer with a small charcoal business. At age fourteen, Alpha and his family moved to the U.S. seeking the "American dream" However, life wasn't easy, the 2008 recession just happened, and racism and colorism were new challenges Alpha and his family had to face. He studied painting, drawing, and printmaking at Towson University, where he fell in love with charcoal as his primary medium. Private collectors have collected Alpha works. They have been a part of major group shows in the United States, which include Novo Legado & Black Creatives at The Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. Alpha has also had two solo shows: Black Noise and Led by The Holy Spirit, which has made him a well-sought-out artist in Baltimore City. He founded Hot Sauce Artist Collective, supporting artists and bridging the gap between the everyday person and the arts. Alpha is currently an MFA candidate at Tufts SMFA.

More information about **ALPHA Massaquoi Jr.** is available here:

[Alpha Massaquoi jr - Kingston Gallery 2024 Center Gallery Show](#)

[Alpha Massaquoi jr](#)

[Alpha Massaquoi jr \(@art_nerd19\) | Instagram profile](#)

[Hot Sauce Artist Collective \(@hot_sauceart\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

[Hot Sauce Artists Collective](#)

[J. Alpha Massaquoi jr | Maryland State Arts Council](#)

[Alpha Massaquoi Jr. - Baltimore Magazine](#)

Project Space



Swamp Trail, The Cove, Auburndale, MA, Mary Lang, archival digital print, Winter 2023

I Know I'm Looking at Something

Over the past year or so, Mary Lang has found herself photographing entangled trees, vines, and almost impenetrable thickets of growth. This marks a significant change from her decades of photographs offering a feeling of space - groundlessness, a vast sky, open water, or an expansive horizon. Lang wonders, "Why? What am I looking at? What am I trying to see? Or describe?" She wonders if it might be something about the concept of entanglement, a word which scientists and

climate activists use to describe the complexity of this planet - the simple yet often ignored truth that everything we do, all living things, everything that the earth does, weather, plate tectonics, atmosphere, oceans, is completely entangled, interdependent, and inseparable.

With this selection of prints, Lang is showing work about which she is uncertain – truly work in progress. Some of these images likely could have been more technically successful, if she had a tripod along on her walks or explorations, but usually she doesn't. For any number of reasons, an artists' work is not always successful in their eyes, but nonetheless Lang is putting the work up on a wall for viewers to look at. She expects to know and understand more about these photographs after they have been on the walls of the gallery for a month. She may ask the viewers for help in understanding her purpose, in understanding what she is looking at.

More information about **Mary Lang** is available here:

[Mary Lang - Kingston Gallery 2024 Project Space Show](#)

[Mary Lang Bio](#)

[Mary Lang](#)

[Mary Lang – Kingston Gallery](#)

[Mary Lang \(@marystuartlang\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Kingston Gallery is a distinguished Artist-Cooperative gallery, founded in 1982. The gallery exhibits the work of notable Boston-area contemporary artists, and features a diverse range of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, and installation. Located in the SoWa arts district in the South End, exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are Wednesday–Sunday 12–5 pm, and by appointment.

Contact Kingston Gallery at marketing@kingstongallery.com

More information available at [Kingston Gallery](#)

And on Instagram [Kingston Gallery \(@kingstongallery\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)