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Free Association Brings Fresh Sights to Kingston Gallery

Boston, MA - Kingston Gallery is pleased to present **Free Association 2015**, a group exhibition by Associate Members **Jamie Bowman, Meghan Chase, Susan Emmerson, Erica Licea-Kane, Jane Lincoln, Nat Martin, Laurie Miles, Wendy Seller, and Rachel Thern**. The group works together year-round, operating independently from Kingston's artist members, to share and support each other's work. With this exhibition, we both get to know them both as individual artists and as a cohesive group. While the work is diverse, themes emerge, including pushing abstraction to innovative extremes and using abstraction and repetition to respond to the landscape.

On View: August 5 - 30, 2015
Reception: Friday, August 7, 5:00–8:00 PM

Jamie Bowman shows her recent still-life paintings. The small-scale, oil on canvas paintings depict intimate dioramas that brim with light and wonder, as though the dolls and other toys could break away from their arrangement and become animated at any moment.

Meghan Chase is fascinated by run-down and neglected buildings. Using such structures as her subjects, she tries to capture the memories of what was there. The paintings' irregular edges and finely wrought fidelity describe each brick, and buckling, exposed beam, and ragged sheet of drywall. Chase's work captures the liminal spaces between structure and disarray.

Susan Emmerson recently showed in Kingston's Center Gallery. For *Free Association*, she shows another work, *Mind-Fields*. "I imagine gazing across the microscopic surface of the brain and wondering if we are purely a set of organic reactions or something else entirely," she says. *Mind-Fields* is cut and reassembled black paper with white ink, and its arcing shapes—both the overall swoop and the white painted lines—are reminiscent of a heart rate monitor readings.

Erica Licea-Kane uses a laborious, multi-layered process to create her mixed-media works. Her training in textile art is evident, as she uses the acrylic medium to "weave" repeated patterns of grids and webs. The results are dazzling and purposely leave her process a mystery. The complex patterns draw the gaze toward the surfaces of her paintings, like moths to a flame.

Jane Lincoln will show works from her *Personal Puzzles* series, based on her own system that applies the rules of Sudoku to create portrait-like grids. She made a series of works based on color preferences of fellow Associates specifically for this exhibition. Participants selected three to five colors in a combination that they prefer, then Lincoln “solved” squares with a balance of chance and choice.

Nat Martin is a photographer who brings a love of sculpture and painting to his prints. He takes many photos of bogs, and then weaves the images through Photoshop. As many as five pictures may be layered to form a single image, creating scenes thick with imagery and conjuring a hypnotic view of the American Gothic.

Laurie Miles will show works from *Tectonics*, her ongoing series of abstract compositions. With the ocean’s horizon and the forms of tidal marshes in mind, Miles works with simple materials such as used envelopes, masking tape and ink to create dynamic arrangements that speak to forces of tension and release.

Wendy Seller has forged her own unique blend of painting, collage, and digital media to create work that, as she describes, “overlaps concepts of time and space.” She paints on photographic prints, re-photographs them, and creates complex digital collages. Her series *Metaphors (figures)*, gives puzzle-like complexity to the faces of historically-clad figures. Their refracted faces seem to come alive with the relevance of both their own era and that of the 21st century.

Rachel Thern will exhibit oil paintings containing organic and linear curved forms. As a staff member at a Museum of Natural History, the skeletons of dinosaurs sometimes find their way into her work. With this new series, Thern uses repeating forms and a balance of spontaneous and planned imagery to return to painting after having focused on oil pastel and ink in her previous body of work.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Jamie Bowman is based in Boston and has shown widely, including at the Danforth Art Museum, Framingham, MA, First Street Gallery, NYC, and Walter Feldman Gallery, Boston, MA. Bowman has a MA in Studio Teaching from Boston University, Boston, MA, an MFA in Painting from the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, and a BFA in Painting from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, NY.

Susan Emmerson’s inspiration comes from her lifelong fascination with science and her former work in the medical profession. Translating biology into an alternative visual language has always been a part of her life and has become the impetus for her recent art. The abstract shapes share many qualities with live organisms: flowing, expanding, growing, repeating and proliferating. After working for years as a surgeon, Emmerson obtained her BFA from Illinois State University and her MFA from Lesley University College of Art and Design (LUCAD). She has exhibited in Boston, Chicago, and throughout Massachusetts and Illinois.

Erica Licea-Kane has been a working artist for the past 33 years. She teaches Studio courses at Wheelock College, where she is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Towne Art Gallery.

She received her BFA at the Parsons School of Design (NYC) and her MFA at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MA). Both degrees were based in the area of textiles as a fine art medium. Licea-Kane has shown her work widely, with recent exhibitions including Emmanuel College, Boston, MA, the Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA, and the Andrews Art Museum, Andrews, NC.

Jane Lincoln's art focuses on the precision of color and the intrigue of color relationships. She has had thirty solo exhibitions and exhibited at over fifty museums and galleries. Her recent exhibitions include *An Abstract View*, Court House Cultural Center Galleries, Stuart, FL, and exhibitions at the Kentler International Drawing Space, Brooklyn, NY, Cotuit Center for the Arts, Cotuit, MA, and Lord Hall Gallery, University of Maine, Orono, ME. She has a MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA. She has a BA from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York.

Nat Martin has been experimenting with the physical and conceptual properties of photography for many years. Using both analog and digital techniques, and maintaining a permanent sense of play, he has built up a stylistically eclectic body of photo-based work. Martin received his B.A. from Skidmore College as an art history major, and has an M.A. in Art History from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Nat has taught darkroom photo, digital photography and art history since 2000.

Laurie Miles is a mixed media artist, coming to fine art after a career in print advertising—an industry saturated in design. Her work accesses those aesthetics without the industry's restrictions, thriving on inventiveness, using common materials from leaves to masking tape. She works closely with nature, both in and out of the studio, and has led several community art programs related to the environment including papermaking from organics and outdoor earthen oven building. Miles received a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art. She lives and works in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

Wendy Seller exhibits her work widely, most recently at "The Enhanced Eye: Painters Using Photography," at Catherine Hammond Gallery in Cork, Ireland. Other exhibitions include a solo exhibition at Bannister Gallery, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI, and group exhibitions at the Griffin Museum of Photography, Winthrop, MA, Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA, and the New Arts Center, Newton, MA. Seller teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design and received the Provost's Faculty Award in 2011. Among other honors, she has received multiple residencies at the Ballinglen Foundation for the Arts in Ballyvaughan, Ireland.

Rachel Thern was born in Philadelphia and grew up on Long Island, New York. She studied for two years at the Maryland Institute College of Art and then completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the State University of New York, University at Buffalo where she also received a BA in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. She has spent time living in San Diego, California, and Baltimore, Maryland. She currently lives in Western Massachusetts.

Free Association 2015 will occupy Kingston Gallery's entire gallery space from August 5 - 30, 2015. The reception takes place on Friday August 7, 2015, 5:00–8:00 p.m.

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: Meghan Chase, *Where We Used to Sit on the Stoop*, mixed media collage, 27 x 19 inches, 2014.