

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kingston Gallery
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Kingston Gallery Features Monumental Graphite Drawings by Jamal Thorne

BOSTON, MA, December 20, 2015 - Kingston Gallery is pleased to present *Phantasmal Espionage*, a solo exhibition by Jamal Thorne. The show will include a selection of monochromatic representational drawings, as large as six by four feet, and a site-specific wall drawing.

On View: February 3 - 28, 2016
First Friday Opening Reception: Friday, February 5, 5:30-8:00 pm

Thorne's wall drawing will encompass an entire wall of Kingston's Main Gallery, taking many hours to create. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet Thorne and observe his process during a live performance at the exhibition opening. Thorne helped Ethan Murrow create the large-scale monochromatic drawing, *Seastead*, currently on view on the Sandra and Gerald Fineberg Art Wall at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston. Murrow's 40-foot mural captured an entrancing view of the ocean, and Thorne's wall drawing will use similarly arresting *trompe l'oeil* imagery.

Frontally-oriented faces fill the entire visual field of Thorne's drawings. The faces appear to be made of layers of paper, which illusionistically tear away in ribbons to reveal characteristics, such as malice or despair that are typically kept hidden in public. The resulting visages are like incomplete puzzles, with frightening aspects such as a sinister glare or a beaten nose coexisting with approachable layers, such as a wide grin. Hoodies, sunglasses, and gleaming jewelry add to the theme of how our faces are masks behind which we hide in plain sight.

The artist believes that, no matter how well we conceal the negative aspects of ourselves, they will nonetheless influence our behavior, and potentially the reactions of those we encounter. This series embodies Thorne's attempts to articulate the clash between different aspects of identity, and to question whether acknowledging the darkness in each of us would increase negativity, or enable us to more readily accept one another.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Jamal Thorne received his BA in Photographic Media from Morgan State University in 2008. Thorne relocated to Boston where he became the pioneering student in a newly formed cooperative MFA Program between Northeastern University and The School of the Museum of Fine Art. He has exhibited his work at venues that include the James E. Lewis Museum in Baltimore, the Museum of Fine Art in Boston, and the Huret and Specter Gallery in Boston. Jamal Thorne also received the Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant in 2012. While continuing his work as an artist, Jamal serves as an adjunct faculty

member at Northeastern University and as Visiting Faculty at the Eliot School for Fine/Applied Arts.

Also at Kingston Gallery in February: *Portraits* by Jamie Bowman in the Center Gallery and *New Work* by Jennifer Moses in the Members' Gallery. **First Friday Opening Reception:** February 5, 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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