

# The Boston Globe

## Crumbled vistas, important questions in 'Hedonic Reversal'

By Cate McQuaid | Globe Correspondent  
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Capturing divisiveness

In his artist's statement, Jamal Thorne, who has an ambitious drawing show up at Kingston Gallery, wonders, "is it possible for the 'American Dream' to be loaded into a pistol and fired at unsuspecting victims?"

His drawings-mostly large-scale, sometimes monstrous portraits of imagined or mythical figures-capture the divisiveness of American society, often as ugly and threatening. Thorne expertly uses charcoal and graphite; his skin textures alone are marvelous.

"Quetzalcoatl for President 2016" references the Aztec god of wind, the dawn, and learning, who often appears as a feathered serpent. Thorne's version has a ragged Trump bumper sticker on his forehead: "Make America Great Again." One eye stares us down; the other looks blind; the mouth is a scar that opens to bloody teeth. The imagery is extreme, but apt - the presidential race is part hard issues, part hot air. Thorne puts faces on the powerful gusts of boasting and fear-mongering.

*For more information:*

JAMAL THORNE: Phantasmal Espionage

At Kingston Gallery through February 28, 2016

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