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Kingston Gallery
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The Main Gallery
Flying Without a Parachute
Ilona Anderson

The Center Gallery
Too (un)Familiar?
Kledia Spiro

The Project Space Gallery
All Is Well
Nat Martin

March 31 to May 2, 2021
Opening Reception April 2, 2021, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (February 9, 2020) –

Fanciful journeys, uncanny dreams, and the fragmentation of time through the perilous lens of immigration are both explored and exemplified in innovative exhibitions from three Kingston member artists. In a Kingston Gallery first, all three solo exhibitions fall into the New Media genre, offering fresh perspectives within the gallery walls. In the Main Gallery, **Ilona Anderson's** lively animations in ***Flying Without a Parachute*** celebrate being alive despite the horrors in the world. In the Center Gallery, Emerging Artist **Kledia Spiro's** multimedia installation, ***Too (un)Familiar?***, challenges viewers' preconceived notions of time in the context of immigration and one's sense of place. **Nat Martin's *All Is Well*** is a unique online exhibition in the Project Space Gallery. The show combines photography and gifs to describe anxious thoughts that creep up in the middle of the night, spinning a narrative of nostalgic eeriness.

Kingston Gallery will participate in First Fridays on April 2, 2021, with social distancing guidelines in place (we will accept six visitors at a time). The public is welcome to visit the gallery from noon to 5 pm starting March 31, the opening day.

Kingston Conversations: TBD

Main Gallery

Ilona Anderson's exhibition, *Flying Without a Parachute*, is informed by her long study of Tibetan Buddhism, where she embraces the practice of non-attachment. Trained as a painter, she transitioned to drawing many years ago and recently moved on to animation. Currently, she works primarily on her iPad, using the Procreate app, allowing her to animate in layers. After years of painting large canvases with acrylic and gouache, the new medium brings spontaneity to her studio work, making room for greater experimentation and surprise. Her familiar imagery of figures with outlandish headdresses, teacups, and fanciful structures connecting imaginary worlds are now animated, featuring characters that take the viewer on dreamlike journeys, full of color and levity.

Anderson states, "Buddhism is about dissolving our fixation on ourselves, on the process of meditating, and on any result, we might gain from it. Through meditation, we begin to get the hang of living with a non-grasping attitude." By creating these animations, she explores ways to present this view that arise, exist, and dissolve.

Ilona Anderson is a South African artist with an international career who came to Boston on a Fulbright Scholarship. She has many works in major South African collections, including the National Gallery, the University of Witwatersrand Art Gallery, the Nelson Mandela Art Museum, and private collections. Anderson has exhibited in numerous museum shows internationally, including The Carnegie International (Pittsburgh), the Currier Museum Gallery of Art (New Hampshire), and throughout South Africa. She has also shown at The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, and was included in the 2nd International Exhibition on Modern Design on Ink Painting in Beijing.

The Center Gallery

Emerging Artist **Kledia Spiro** in her solo exhibition *Too (un)Familiar?* creates a multimedia experience combining photography, video performance, augmented reality, and installation that challenges ideas surrounding immigration, the sense of home, and the passage of time. Using the Wachusett Reservoir in Sterling, as her home ground and starting point, Spiro has photographed this same location over the last twelve months. She contrasts this to her life as an immigrant, stating: "Nature seems to have a self-cleaning mechanism, its own method of repurposing and recycling. When you're an immigrant, you only know repurposing and recycling. There is no self-cleaning mechanism in immigrant homes. Everything is precious because you don't know when you may lose it again, even if just subconsciously...Over time, every memory becomes fragmented, like a distant dream."

The centerpiece of Spiro's installation is her video performance, focused on her weightlifting practice. Like painting or any other art form, her training displays a sense of rigorous discipline, captured in the video performance. Spiro's goal is to one day be strong enough to lift her parents as both a literal and metaphorical symbol of the duty, responsibility, and drive found in many immigrant children. The combination of training to lift her parents' weight and photographing the reservoir culminates in the central theme of home, a place of anchor and security against the external chaos.

Visit [here](#) for a bio of Kledia Spiro.

Kingston Project Space

All Is Well, a solo exhibition by **Nat Martin**, comes from one of his journal entries; “3:30 am, and all is well”. The work presented here at the gallery and online through a website Martin made for the exhibition was derived from two small series created in quarantine. Fueled by anxious thoughts and strange dreams, the works are realized as journal-like moments with an aura of nostalgic eeriness. Old National Geographic magazine imagery and small sculptures confound the viewer’s sense of scale. Evocative processes - instant-prints through a Daylab printer and Copy system - combine with contemporary technology like gifs to create an odd time-warping that further captures the unshakable feeling of unease.

Visit [here](#) for a bio of Nat Martin.

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](#).

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