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Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave, No. 43
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The Main Gallery
Making Meaning
Elif Soyer

The Center Gallery
Still/Moving
David J Henry and Sue Murad

The Project Space Gallery
Intimacies of Telephony
Margaret Wagner Hart

On View from November 29th thru December 30th, 2023
Opening Reception December 1st, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Events will be announced in November 2023
Galleries will be closed on Christmas Eve

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (September 20th, 2023) Capturing intimate feelings, integrating and expressing them in their work, with talismans, totems or gestures, is a common thread running through the exhibitions on view at Kingston Gallery in December 2023. In **Making Meaning**, in the Main Gallery, **Elif Soyer** exhibits large mixed media constructions, layered with biomorphic elements, including totems created by Soyer in response to her late father's illness and death. In the Center Gallery, **David Henry and Sue Murad** present **Still/Moving**, the result of an ongoing collaboration delving into the shifts in visual perception between a figure at rest and one in motion. In the Project Space, **Margaret Wagner Hart** stages the **Intimacies of Telephony**, an apothecary-like installation which begins from a place of personal narrative and preservation, but ultimately addresses the more universal concepts of domesticity, memory and issues of communication.

Main Gallery



What Remains, Elif Soyer, Mixed Media, 36" x 50" x 12", 2023

[Making Meaning](#)

*"Everyday takes figuring out all over again how to f***ing live."* (Calamity Jane/Deadwood)

Elif Soyer's latest body of work, [Making Meaning](#), is a conglomeration of old and new ideas and experiments, culminating in fabrications, layered with both time and materials. For Soyer, the Calamity Jane quote from her favorite character and all time favorite show is true for most of us. Soyer ponders this existential question often, especially in the studio where, for her, making art is making meaning out of the mundane, through work and invested time. Oscillating between the interior landscape of the human body and the exterior landscape of her immediate environment, through collecting, layering or other seemingly obsessive processes, Soyer's work has always had a very strong link to time.

For this exhibition, Soyer presents mixed media sculptures constructed from fabric, thread, clay (fired and unfired), latex, pen and pencil, using her older work as platforms. Many of the three dimensional objects - hearts, aortas, veins, lungs - embedded in the work have become *totems*, imbued with spiritual significance over the years. Although created when her father survived a heart attack, Soyer did not allow herself to use them until he passed, feeling that if she did, he would somehow be devoid of protection. Knowing that he doesn't need them any more, she found herself wanting to bring them back to life in this world in a different way. Soyer connects the objects to one another, creating an environment, where their interactions coalesce and morph into an object.

Elif Soyer is a Turkish-American artist. She received a BA in Economics from Emory University in 1985, a studio diploma in 1995 and a MFA in 1997 from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She is also a fencing coach and co-owner of Moe Fencing Club in Somerville, MA where she trains Olympic hopefuls, weekend warriors and some of the top-ranked fencers in the US. Her work has oscillated between drawing on the interior landscape of the human body and the exterior landscape of her immediate environment, but has always had a very strong tie

to time through layering or other seemingly obsessive processes. While she loves the process of painting and drawing, she has a very strong attraction to so-called "non traditional" mediums such as gravel, discarded textile, raw clay and scraps of day to day life.

More Information about **Elif Soyer** is available here:

[Elif Soyer \(@elifsoyerstudios\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

[Elif Soyer | Making Meaning](#)

[Elif Soyer – Kingston Gallery](#)

[Elif Soyer: Art that Moves the Mind](#)

[Elif Soyer | Artist Overview](#)

Center Gallery



Still/Moving, Muybridge, Sue Murad & David Henry, Still Image from Video, 2023

Still/Moving

Through collage, assemblage and stop motion, photographer, educator and dance curator, **David Henry**, and performance artist and filmmaker, **Sue Murad** explore the shifts in visual perception between a figure at rest and in motion. Over the past year the artists met regularly in each other's studios, creating work inspired by monthly word pairs like Figure/Ground, Fact/Feeling and Faith/Desire. The original prompt [Still/Moving](#) represents each of their primary approaches to art making and soon became the parameter for creating the work in this show.

The artists first met on a project led by Murad and choreographer Jenna Pollack while they were in residence at Boston's Old North Church. During that time, they discovered a shared interest in dance, movement, and collage, and the way that actions, objects, and images, when seen out of place, disrupt our thought processes and activate our imaginations. With influences ranging from Eadweard Muybridge, fashion photography, post modern dance and the filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky, they

observe the impact of time (suspended, manipulated, and real) on their collection of materials and choreographic prompts.

David Henry works with photography and collage to create images that are simultaneously dissonant and unified, truthful and impossible, beautiful and decayed. The collage hand work requires sustained looking, and the resultant works are intended to provide a space for the viewer's mind to wander, question and wonder. Much of his work is made collaboratively with performers, particularly dancers and choreographers. He has been deeply influenced by a 40-year career working in art museums as an educator and a curator where he worked to ensure that the artist's voice was central to the museum experience. He worked at the International Museum of Photography in Rochester, NY; Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN; The RISD Museum in Providence, RI; and, between 2004 and 2018, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. At the ICA he was responsible for building and implementing the education, performing arts, and media programs when it moved to the Seaport. As the Bill T. Jones Director of Performing and Media Arts, he directed the ICA's performing Arts program between 2006 and 2018. He has an MFA from the State University of New York's Visual Studies Workshop.

Sue Murad develops an intuitive language with moving pictures, common objects and found narratives, re-contextualizing these cultural artifacts through her interdisciplinary practice of performance, installation, sculpture, collage, and film. She is a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellow in Choreography with recent endeavors including performing at the FADO Performance Art Centre in Toronto; directing a film created from a year-long residency at Boston's historic Old North Church; and launching *The New Garden*, an art book pairing a contemporary magazine with the biblical story of Genesis. Past collaborations include her time as a member of the pop synth band, UV Projection (2004-2007) and artist residencies with Reciprocity Collaborative at Jacob's Pillow and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Sue works as a videographer in Boston and has a BFA in Sculpture from Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

More information about the artists is available here:

suemurad.com - artist, video, performance artist, sculpture

[Sue Murad \(@muradsue\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

[David J. Henry Photography & Collage](#)

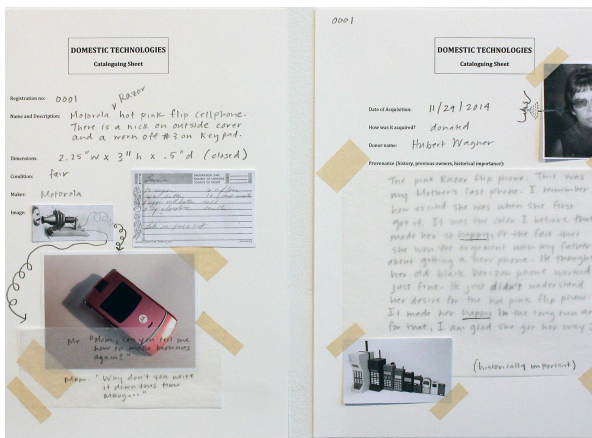
[David J Henry \(@djhenry100\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

[David Henry & Sue Murad | Still/Moving](#)

Kingston Project Space



Intimacies of Telephony, installation detail, Margaret Wagner Hart, used cell phone, oil, paper label, 1 quart sized glass canning jar, variable dimensions, 2016-present



Domestic Technologies, installation detail from Intimacies of Telephony, Margaret Wagner Hart, collage, inkjet pages, pencil, carpenter's tape, 18 x 13 inches total, collage, 9 x 13 inch 2016-present

[Intimacies of Telephony](#), an ongoing installation, started with a collection of voicemails saved on a cell phone. These voicemails preserved the last messages left by **Margaret Wagner Hart's** deceased mother. Captured on a hot pink Razor flip phone, they were trapped there when Hart decided to update her phone service. At the time, the technology to transfer them to another device or save them in the cloud did not exist. As Hart dealt with the loss of her mother, she held onto that outdated cell phone as a talisman. It housed an emotional catalog of voicemails, and as long as Hart had the phone, she could play back the messages. This duality was the beginning of the large-scale installation titled **Intimacies of Telephony**, in which Hart has canned over 125 telephones to preserve, collect and catalog the information held within. It continues to expand as people give Hart their phones and their stories. This work was greatly influenced by Hart's research into the history of telephone technologies, feminist communication theory, and artists whose work resonated with her own creative endeavors.

Margaret Wagner Hart Artist Bio

More information about the artist is available here:
[Margaret Wagner Hart \(@margaretwagnerhart\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

[Margaret Hart – Kingston Gallery](#)

[Margaret Wagner Hart | University of Massachusetts, Boston - Academia.edu](#)

[Margaret Hart | Intimacies of Telephony](#)

[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](#)