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Kingston Gallery
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The Main Gallery
Better Homes Than Gardens
Krystle Brown

The Center Gallery
Pictures from the Outside
Chantal Zakari

The Project Space Gallery
Surroundings
Stacey Cushner

On View from August 30th thru October 1st, 2023
Opening Reception September 8th, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Other Events will be announced in August 2023

SOUTH END BOSTON, MA (June 20th, 2023) The existential feeling of *Home* is central to the core of the individual human experience, whether it is a simple dwelling, a much loved landscape, or a deeply resonant culture. This September, the artists on view at Kingston Gallery explore the concept of home through their work. In the Main Gallery, **Krystle Brown's** show, ***Better Homes Than Gardens***, confronts the current national housing crisis and the widening wealth gap head on through the lens of autobiography, asking the viewers to grapple with their complicity in the current situation, while laying bare Brown's family's struggles with poverty and housing in Boston during their childhood. In the Center Gallery, **Chantal Zakari** will show ***Pictures from the Outside***, her new publication of photographic work as well as prints from the book. Zakari's work delves into contemporary social issues by making connections with personal narratives, history, and popular culture. With ***Surroundings***, in the Project Space Gallery, **Stacey Cushner** examines how her family's pandemic move to rural Vermont has changed both her life and art.

Main Gallery



"Would You Be My Neighbor?" with grass, Krystle Brown, Lenticular Print with fake grass, 4' x 7', 2023

2023: Anonymous to me

"I need to go home early— they're building this huge apartment building where I live and we are fighting against it. It's so out of character with the neighborhood"

1996: Mom and I

"That magazine, Better Homes Than Gardens, is pretty. I wish our house looked like that"

"It's Better Homes AND Gardens, and that magazine is for rich people"

1994: Dad and I

"Please don't mow the flowers"

"Those aren't flowers, they're dandelions, they're weeds"

"What's a weed?"

"It is a plant that you don't want growing"

These recollections, and many more, reflect **Krystle Brown's** personal experiences and observations around the 'idea' of home. Beyond the physical structure of a 'home', Brown's exhibition '**Better Homes Than Gardens**' challenges the economic, societal, and governmental structures that make securing a safe home and community, what is still imagined as the *American Dream*, a Sisyphean feat for many. For Brown, *Better Homes Than Gardens* is as much an autobiography as it is a mirror to what many Americans may not want to admit— complicity in the nationwide housing and poverty crisis.

After Brown's parents passed away in 2017, they looked at the house their family lived in; it was dirty and nearly uninhabitable. Using their family's lived experiences and what Brown has realized about their home, their neighborhood, their city, and their country, Brown was left with uncomfortable observations about the human condition - their family was always one bad day away from losing their home. In response, Brown has developed a concept-driven practice that incorporates painting, photography, and installation. In this exhibition, Brown warps Cash for Houses scam signs, uses 3D printing to recreate the home they nearly lost, and creates moments

of whimsy with nostalgic elements such as a neon sign and a custom View-Master toy to subvert the notion of shared prosperity. There is a hauntological underpinning coursing through the process. *What futures can we arrive at if we are still living within the specters of the past?*

Brown's installation evokes the growth, the signs, and the accouterments of the current suburban landscape. The "weeds" in *Find Your Lot in Life* are all edible and medicinal, with rich histories in Black folk medicine, Indigenous American cultures, and Brown's own ancestors in Ireland and the Pale of Settlement, which we have turned our backs on in the quest for a perfect lawn. The lenticular sign *Would You Be My Neighbor?* uses popular lawn signage of liberalism while exposing the darker underbelly, with written responses from Boston residents against housing developments, from East Boston to West Roxbury. It seems as though Black lives and the lives of those less fortunate only matter when they are not inconveniencing those who are already secure.

Krystle Brown (they/them) is a multimedia artist based in Salem, MA. Their work explores the connections between class, ancestry, place, environment, and labor, often embracing the role of family archivist and community documentarian. Combining these themes, Krystle creates multimedia installations and photographs that explore the inherent power dynamics in these topics. They hold a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Painting and Art History and an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University.

While studying at SMFA at Tufts, Krystle was awarded the Montague Travel Grant to research in Northern Ireland to understand political strife through the 20th and 21st centuries. From 2019 to 2021, they were an Emerging Artist at Kingston Gallery and had their first solo show in March 2021. In 2022 they began a community art project, "Calling Home," as an artist-in-residence with the Urbano Project in Boston, MA. In 2022, they were named a fellow in Now + There's public art incubator program.

More Information on Krystle Brown is available here:

[Krystle Brown — Kingston Gallery](#)

[Krystle Brown \(@krystlebrown_art\)](#)

[Krystle Brown](#)

Center Gallery



Chantal Zakari will show ***Pictures from the Outside*** in the Center Gallery. Chantal Zakari describes her work and practice using the words: “I am inspired by social phenomena and position myself in relation to the public. I freely combine research methodologies and artistic strategies from various disciplines such as photography, documentary, graphic design, performance, storytelling, installation, and social interventions. Text and language are an inherent part of my work; interviews, personal narrative, found text, all have the potential to contextualize the imagery. My work is project based. As I explore projects over the span of several years, the work can transform into exhibitions, installations, publications, performances and street happenings. Designing and redesigning the work into different contexts brings me a greater understanding of the ideas, and makes it more accessible to different groups of audiences.”

More information on Zakari is available here:

[Chantal Zakari — Kingston Gallery](#)

[Mike Mandel, Chantal Zakari](#)

[chantal zakari \(@show.n.tll\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Kingston Project Space Gallery



Adornment, Stacey Cushner, oil on canvas, 24" x 30", 2023

Rural Vermont life is different from what artist **Stacey Cushner** has known. With her family, Cushner moved to Vermont during the pandemic and has stayed, never thinking of moving back. The move has impacted not only Cushner's life but her art. In her show **Surroundings**, her family's flower CSA provides inspiration for her new floral paintings. The works are vibrant with color - some flowers are imaginative, others are real. The images have a folk art sensibility, some incorporating quilts in the still life, which remind Cushner of the quilts that are sold in shops, farmers' markets and crafted in the Vermont region, intended to be handed down through the generations.

For Cushner, Vermont is a series of unexpected treasures, from the salad greens of the summer, to the cold, sparkling winters; her surroundings are pristine scenes of natural beauty. She is frequently outdoors with friends either walking, hiking, kayaking, biking or skiing, weather permitting. She has never known this kind of life until now and feels that it's quite a good one.

More information about **Stacey Cushner** is available here:

[Stacey Cushner — Kingston Gallery](#)
[stacey cushner fine art](#)

About Kingston Gallery 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.

For more information about Kingston Gallery, visit: www.kingstongallery.com

Contact Kingston Gallery at: marketing@kingstongallery.com

Instagram: [@kingstongallery](#)