



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beacon Gallery
524B Harrison Ave
Boston MA 02118

September 7th – 30th
Opening Reception: September 7th



“Tech Time,” Shapiro & Fornasaro, 20 x 60

Boston MA - June 28, 2018– Beacon Gallery is pleased to announce its September show: “Be Here Now”- a two-artist show featuring works by artists Raquel Fornasaro and Wendy Shapiro, as well as collaborative pieces.

Artists Wendy Shapiro and Raquel Fornasaro met a year ago during a visit to SoWa, Boston. They quickly realized that though their aesthetics are very different, conceptually, their work mimics each other’s, creating a perfect balance when intersected. Collaboration was inevitable. In this first joint exhibition, their work explores the ephemerality of our species and the impact of our interconnection with the environment we inhabit. Gallery Director Christine O’Donnell says, “I am delighted to show Fornasaro’s and Shapiro’s work together. This is another show in which Beacon Gallery is displaying work by two very different women, one with abstract work, the other with figurative, but where an energy exists between the two. I find Fornasaro’s work energetic and dynamic, and Shapiro’s restful. Together they counterbalance each other.”

Wendy’s inspiration comes from places she has visited and her reactions to these landscapes. An avid boater, the jagged East Coast of the United States and its horizons have been imprinted in Shapiro’s mind evolving with each journey. The interaction between coastal living and the industrial aspect of human-made landscapes is evident in her work. One can reflect upon the intersection of human influence as it



clashes with the calm nature of seascapes. Wendy hopes the viewer can take a moment to imagine stepping into each piece, visualizing what the infinite horizon is today while thinking about the future.

Shapiro's message of environmentalism expands beyond the content of her work and into her materials as well. Her latest textured acrylics are prime examples of sustainability in art. Shapiro uses GREENGUARD gold certified acrylic paint. This certification (according to greenguard.org) "ensures that a product has met some of the world's most rigorous and comprehensive standards for low emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into indoor air." Shapiro's choice of materials is a conscious message regarding the need of humanity to be aware of how we are affecting our environment.

Artist Raquel Fornasaro was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. She has lived in the US for nearly 15 years. Guided by a childhood surrounded by uncontrolled urban growth, her work focuses on questions regarding the understanding of humanity's relationship with its environment. Working with oil on canvas and digital photo manipulation, Fornasaro's art is representational and very personal in nature. She often uses her own family as models for her visual narratives. Her work draws the viewers through a humorous inquiry into the prospects of life, and displays how politics and culture affect our unstable, ever-changing contemporary age. Rich with symbols, science and mythology, she uses her art to address current political and ecological events. Fornasaro sees each one of her works as the headline of an idea; a chance to speak up, demand action, and influence thought.

Combining their optimism and natural concern for the future, Shapiro and Fornasaro's collaborative works create delicate landscapes that draw viewers through an unconventional and multilayered experience. Open to personal interpretation, one can envision and question the direction of our future while recognizing the unquestionable socio-environmental challenges the next generations will have to deal with in order to secure a healthy survival for all living species. Their individual and combined pieces create a show that offers a meditation on the current human condition. Experiencing the show, we take a breath to contemplate the present while reinforcing the importance of a healthy future. For better or worse, it's up to us to **Be Here Now**.



"Black Sand Oak," Shapiro & Fornasaro, 36 x 60