**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MIA CROSS: SECOND SKIN**

**July 15 - September 8, 2017**

**13FOREST Gallery is pleased to present *Mia Cross: Second Skin*, an exhibition featuring the work of Mia Cross.**

Last September we celebrated 13FOREST Gallery’s tenth anniversary with *TENFOLD*, an exhibition featuring nine artists who have grown with us over the past ten years, and one new artist who will help us continue to grow in the future. Our summer exhibition highlights the development of that new artist, Mia Cross, since her introduction in *TENFOLD*.

After finishing her degree in painting and sculpture at Boston University in 2014, Cross began establishing her artistic practice. She was awarded multiple prestigious residencies, and has been curating group shows and exhibiting in numerous art spaces. Cross’s captivating figures drew us to her last year for *TENFOLD*, and her continued experiments with color and form have kept us intrigued. We are excited to showcase her burgeoning career with a solo exhibition, *Mia Cross: Second Skin.*

Cross’ recent work dissects some of the most elemental concerns of an artist: color and human figures. She is particularly interested in how color relationships play out on the faces of her subjects. Isolating individual shades found in the delicate skin around the eye and weaving them into new designs, Cross encourages the viewer to question how we perceive skin. How are the identity implications of skin affected when it is separated from the body and broken down into its tonal components?

Cross further questions our perception of skin by altering it completely in some of her pieces, exchanging familiar fleshy pigments for energetic floral patterns. She extends this exploration to her sculptural work as well, creating new skin for her models with vibrant textiles and painted canvas. By playing with the tones and patterns on the human body, Cross allows us to imagine what would happen if someone was given new flesh.

13FOREST Gallery will host a reception to mark the opening of *Mia Cross: Second Skin* on Saturday July 15, from 4 to 6 pm.

**MIA CROSS: SECOND SKIN, July 15 - September 8, 2017**. On view at 167A Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474. High-resolution images are available upon request. For all inquiries, please contact Marc Gurton or Caitee Hoglund at 13FOREST Gallery by phone 781-641-3333 or by email at info@13FOREST.com.

**Gallery hours:**

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 11 - 7 pm

Wednesday: 11 - 7 pm

Thursday: 11 - 8 pm

Friday: 11 - 6 pm

Saturday: 11 - 6 pm

Sunday: by appointment or chance

**Mia Cross** graduated from Boston University's College of Fine Arts in 2014, where she majored in painting and sculpture. Since completing her degree, Cross has participated in the Arts Letters,& Numbers residency in Averill Park, New York, and shown in a variety of galleries and museums, including the Danforth Museum of Art. 2016 proved to be a tremendously fruitful year for Cross: she received the Emerging Artist Award at the Danforth Art Annual; a Juror's Award for her work in *Framework*at the Arsenal Center for the Arts; and a Blanche E. Colman Grant for New England artists who demonstrate considerable talent. Cross recently participated as a Goetemann resident in the historic artist colony of Rocky Neck in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Cross curated the exhibition *Alchemy* for the Rocky Neck Cultural Center, for which she received a Bruce J. Anderson Foundation Grant. In January 2017, Cross received a Mass MoCA Matched Savings Grant. This fall, Cross will be participating in the Vermont Studio Center Residency, with support from a Boston University Alumni Fellowship Grant. Currently, Cross works at her studio in Framingham, Massachusetts.

**Related events at 13FOREST Gallery:**

**Sat 7/15, 4-6 pm:** Sangria social and opening reception

**Sat 7/29, 4-6 pm:** Outside|In - *The Rhetoric of Opposites*, Nilou Moochhala

**Sat 8/12, 4-6 pm:** Under Your Skin - a conversation with Mia Cross

**Wed 8/30, 6-8 pm:** Outside|In - *Flutter*, Claudia Ravaschiere and Michael Moss

Outside|In is a series of artist talks about public art in Arlington.