



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2020

CONTACT:

Mellany Armstrong
215.965.4065 office
610.329.4022 cell

Always Chasing Rainbows* by Jonathan Santoro Explores the Bygone American Dream through *The Wizard of Oz

Philadelphia, PA — Artist Jonathan Santoro reimagines *The Wizard of Oz* in his new exhibition *Always Chasing Rainbows*, appearing **November 14, 2020 – January 9, 2021** at The Galleries at Moore, 1916 Race Street, located on The Parkway. The exhibition in the Goldie Paley Gallery window is free and open to the public and can be viewed from Race Street. In accordance with Moore College of Art & Design's guidelines, indoor exhibitions at The Galleries are tentatively closed to the public until further notice because of COVID-19.

Beyond its surface-level presentation of loyal friendship, self-actualization and the virtues of home, *The Wizard of Oz* presents sublimated themes of American exceptionalism, frontierism, and the omnipresent threat of surveillance and control. In the evergreen American fairytale *The Wizard of Oz*, the nostalgic yearning for home resounds as a primary theme. Like any good classic, *The Wizard of Oz* is woven deeply into our cultural consciousness and acts as a reflector of societal values—as well as its blemishes.

In reexamining the franchise through the lens of both personal and cultural memory, *Always Chasing Rainbows* transforms Dorothy's oddly matched companions into an assortment of visual misnomers and objects associated with suburban lawn décor, property protection, and spectated punishment. Here, The Galleries at Moore's Race Street window becomes both a voyeuristic stage and a security arena. *Always Chasing Rainbows* uses *The Wizard of Oz* as a vehicle to examine a bygone American dream, exploring ideas around nostalgia as both a sickness and a symptom of an increasingly fervent nationalism, spectacle, surveillance capitalism, and dysfunctional familial relationships wherein even love becomes a tool of control.

About the Artist

Jonathan Santoro is an artist based in Philadelphia. Through means of mimesis, his work utilizes fractured narratives borrowed from mass culture, existential theater and pop psychology to create paradoxical images, where nothing is what it initially appears to be. His work has been exhibited at High~Tide, Bodega, Lord Ludd, Brooklyn Army Terminal for Kara

Walker Presents: The Colossus of Rutgers, EFA, Rosenwald Wolf Gallery at UArts, Vox Populi, and the Woodmere Art Museum. He has also curated exhibitions at Pilot Projects and Icebox Project Space. He received his MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2020.

*****Images available upon request.*****

The Galleries at Moore support Moore College of Art & Design's educational mission and role as a cultural leader by providing a forum for exploring contemporary art and ideas, and enriching the artistic climate and intellectual climate of the college, the Greater Philadelphia community, and beyond. As a gateway between the College and the city of Philadelphia, The Galleries are a catalyst for creative exploration, experimentation and scholarship and function as a gathering place to meet, reflect, learn, challenge and create. The Galleries' exhibitions and programs—which are all free and open to the public—create community through dialogue and participation, and inspire an appreciation for the visual arts as a vital force in shaping contemporary culture.

###