



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

contact: Carolyn Kramer, Founder and Gallery Director

[carolynkramer@johayopenstudio.com](mailto:carolynkramer@johayopenstudio.com)

508.776.0503

**JO HAY OPEN STUDIO GALLERY is pleased to present**

***REASONABLE DOUBT***

**large-scale paintings by O'NEIL SCOTT**

**September 1, 2017, through September 9, 2017**

*September, Provincetown, MA:* JO HAY OPEN STUDIO GALLERY is pleased to present new paintings by O'Neil Scott. *REASONABLE DOUBT* addresses the social inequities that we as a nation are still trying to reconcile despite the advances we've made. Visitors are invited to see this exhibition at 167 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA, from Friday, September 1, 2016, through Saturday, September 9. The exhibition will open with a reception on Friday, September 1, from 7PM–10PM.

Self-taught and with just two years of experience painting under his belt, the Philadelphia-based artist's large-scale portraits don't only convey a technical aptitude that can be likened to the Old Masters, but, more importantly, they speak to the concerns that affect those from marginalized communities who remain in fear for the loss of their basic rights. "While my work addresses the choices that our current administration is taking, it's more about social injustice in America as a whole," says Scott.

As an African American, Scott has had to contend with various forms of discrimination throughout his life which he addresses in *Praying This Works* (2017). The portrait features a black man wearing Groucho Glasses, a symbol Scott uses to underscore the changes that a person of color is often forced to make in an attempt to avoid discrimination. Thus, the prop reminds us just how much we still rely upon old and antiquated stereotypes to base our judgements about others. The same, of course, applies to individuals from other groups that fall outside the mainstream. *God Is Gay* (2017), for instance, speaks to the inequalities experienced by the LGBTQ community

while *Courage Around Cancer* (2017) speaks to those who've become burdened by the stigma that commonly comes with the diagnosis of the disease itself.

While the term *reasonable doubt* was established to protect the innocent, we have become a country that is too quick to judge. Every day, more than many make ill-informed assumptions that wrongfully condemn individuals who identify with various races, religions and cultural groups. By featuring these individuals, who remain subjected to unwarranted discrimination, Scott aims to inspire dialogue and impart change. "At the very least," says Scott, "I want those who feel isolated to know that they are not alone."

### **General Information**

Founded in 2014, the JO HAY OPEN STUDIO GALLERY is a contemporary art gallery located in Provincetown, MA. Carolyn Kramer, Founder and Gallery Director, with her life partner, painter Jo Hay, have a clear vision and bold new approach to the art scene in Provincetown. The gallery's mission is to exhibit contemporary painting and conceptual art that challenges the viewer's intellect and imagination.

JO HAY OPEN STUDIO GALLERY is open Mondays through Sundays 11AM–6PM and Fridays 11AM–9PM. For more information and directions to the gallery at 167 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA, visit [johayopenstudio.com](http://johayopenstudio.com) or call 508.776.0503.

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JO HAY OPEN STUDIO GALLERY  
*REASONABLE DOUBT* by O'NEIL SCOTT  
September 1, 2017, through September 9, 2017



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1. O'Neil Scott, *Don't Shoot, It's Only Water*, 2016, 48" x 48", oil on canvas
2. O'Neil Scott, *Praying This Works*, 2016, 48" x 60", oil on canvas
3. O'Neil Scott, *God Is Gay*, 2017, 60" x 40", oil on canvas