

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
400 S. Orange Ave, S. Orange, NJ 07079  
Walsh Gallery, Seton Hall University

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**Artist Transforms Ordinary Objects into Extraordinary Art**  
**GREGORY COATES: SHEER AUDACITY**  
**January 13 – March 6, 2020**  
**Opening Reception: Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> (5pm to 8pm)**

The Walsh Gallery is pleased to present *Gregory Coates: Sheer Audacity*, a solo exhibition of recent work by the internationally renowned artist. A social abstractionist, Coates uses ordinary objects such as feathers, handbags, curtains and shipping pallets to weave stories about his experiences while simultaneously rousing personal associations for viewers with his chosen subjects and materials. Using art as a catalyst, Coates lures audiences into open-ended conversations to address varying societal concerns. Audiences are disarmed by Coates' use of textures, saturated colors and familiar objects that enables them to participate in a socially conscious dialogue that prioritizes their point of view. Gregory Coates created new work for this exhibition in an homage to the women in his life, and the strength they embody. The exhibition is curated by Gallery Director, Jeanne Brasile who notes "Coates' objects are imbued with history, relevance, memory and identity – giving footing for visitors to voice their position on the subjects the artist addresses through his art."

Gregory Coates studied at the Corcoran School of Art, Washington D.C., and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. He held solo exhibitions at Galerie Leidel, (Munich, Germany) Galerie Denkraum (Vienna, Austria), N'Namdi Contemporary (Miami) and Monica King (NY) and many others. His work has been acquired by numerous private and public collections including The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (Washington D.C.), The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art and The Studio Museum in Harlem. He is a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant Recipient, a New York Foundation Fellow, and was awarded Pollock-Krasner and Esther Gottlieb Foundation (Emergency) grants. Coates was born in Washington, D.C. and held studios in Berlin, London and Kyoto, and for many years in New York City. He currently lives and works in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He frequently returns to New York City, to teach at SVA's Summer Residency Programs.

Programs associated with the exhibition include a Wikithon co-sponsored by the Seton Hall University Libraries, Art+Feminism and the Feminist Art Project at Rutgers University. Brooke Duffy, Coordinator of Instruction Librarian, organized the event at which attendees will be instructed how to edit or create Wikipedia pages, using the Miriam Shapiro Archive on Women Artists as reference. The event will take place on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm in the Beck Rooms across from the Walsh Gallery. No advance registration is needed, attendees may come and go during the event at which all are welcome. The exhibition is supported in part, by a regrant from the New Jersey Council on the Arts/the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

Seton Hall University's beautiful main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles from New York City — offering students a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. Seton Hall's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. The University's new Interprofessional Health Sciences (IHS) campus in Clifton and Nutley, N.J. houses Seton Hall's College of Nursing and School of Health and Medical Sciences as well as the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University. The Walsh Gallery is open 10:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday—Friday.



Gregory Coates "My Feminine Side" (detail)  
shopping cart, woman's handbag, pigment on  
wooden building materials sitting on wallpaper  
with paint cans, 4'x8'x9', 2019