

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**AUDIENCE BECOMES ARTIST FOR “OUT OF ORDER”
GREGSON EXHIBIT AT CAW**

New Haven, CT – Robert Gregson likes a contradiction, that state in which opposites exist as one. In his spring exhibition, *Out of Order*, at Creative Arts Workshop, Gregson explores that intersection where order and disorder share the same place. The works deal with the combined roles of art, artist, and audience—a concept that has fascinated him for fifty years. The exhibition at 80 Audubon Street in New Haven is free and open Mondays through Fridays from 9am to 7pm and Saturdays 9am to noon from May 22-June 30. Videos of Gregson’s works can be found at CreativeArtsWorkshop.org/about-us/media.

A primary aspect of the sculptural and installation pieces resides in the fact that Gregson invites the viewer to manipulate them, thereby offering unlimited opportunities to share experiences. Each piece begins with a static grid from which a state of visual chaos is created by turning a panel and breaking the visual elements. In “Under Wraps,” for example, four X-shaped panels blend into a series of stripes that are painted on the wall. When the panels are turned, the stripes are broken and a new work emerges. The pieces always remain in a state of flux, depending on the adjustments made by the individuals who encounter them and determine what their interaction will be. There is never a “correct” solution.

On the surface, the pieces are playful and graphically bold in order to seduce people into touching and interacting. Gregson, however, is serious about play. Behind the obvious there is a wealth of reflection and experience, as Gregson wrestles with the outer edges of art, considering aspects that range from preciousness and disposability to control and release, as well as issues relating to game theory and connections to prior art movements.

Today, as we increasingly communicate through digital media, and are less involved in the physical world, Gregson’s hands-on, low-tech pieces serve as a cogent reaction.

Robert Gregson came to Connecticut in the 1960s to attend the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford. He received an MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1974. Over the years he has created large-scale public events that invited public participation. His work is in many public and private collections including the New Britain Museum of American Art. For many years he was Creative Director for Connecticut Office of Culture and Tourism. He is a member of the Silvermine Guild in New Canaan.

ABOUT CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

Creative Arts Workshop is a non-profit community art center devoted to fostering creativity through participation in and appreciation of the visual arts, serving the Greater New Haven area and beyond since 1961. The Workshop is a premiere community resource center for the visual arts offering a wide range of classes to students of all ages in fully equipped studios. CAW is supported in part by the Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts, NewAlliance Foundation, and the Arts Fund of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. The exhibition is sponsored by Black Hog Brewing Company.

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