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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Creative Arts Workshop presents *Matter*, opening August 30, 2019

Exhibition: *Matter*

Venue: Creative Arts Workshop

Location: Hilles Gallery, 80 Audubon Street, New Haven, CT 06510

Dates: August 30 - September 25, 2019

Reception: Friday, September 13, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

(NEW HAVEN, CT, August 30, 2019) – Creative Arts Workshop is proud to present a group exhibition, titled *Matter*, and curated by artist Steven DiGiovanni, faculty member and former Head of the Painting & Drawing Department. *Matter* is the body, the “thing in itself,” the primordial soup. *Matter* is both universal and incidental. It is still, it is in motion and its resonances produce reflections. The five featured artists – Howard el-Yasin, Olivia Bonilla, Joseph Fucigna, Alan Neider and Thomas Stavovy – seek to ground their aesthetic inquiries in the various properties and poetic potentials of matter.

The artists’ work is tactile, often rich in narrative, and emblematic of a desire to recover a sense of physical connectivity in a digitally virtual world. Executive Director Anne Coates said, “each of these artists asks for something different from the viewer, and yet in their rigorous exploration of materials and their clear conceptual frameworks, they speak beautifully to each other. It’s compelling, and exemplifies CAW’s commitment to presenting new work and creating space for discourse.”

Olivia Bonilla transforms gypsum cement into brightly hued, absurdist confections. Within her towering cupcakes one can often discover such objects as pills, fake gems or toy cars. Olivia's work playfully points to consumerism, excess, lust and desire.

Howard el-Yasin's work identifies the culturally significant nature of frequently discarded materials. His works speak to processes of valuation by rendering equivalences between the concepts and structures of art and those of our socio-political condition.

Joe Fucigna employs industrial materials including plastic and metal fencing, garden hoses and “physical therapy” putty. His work is non-objective, yet evocative of biological or architectural forms. Joe highlights both the intrinsic properties of the materials and the processes involved with their transformation into art.

Alan Neider builds his large abstract paintings on a substrate of sewn fabrics and unstretched moving blankets. His works are spontaneously composed, exuberant in color and densely layered. They possess the gestural vividness of New York School abstract expressionism and the compositional energy of artists like Robert Rauschenberg and Julien Schnabel.

Thomas Stavovy employs humble materials including wood, cardboard, scraps of metal, and plaster. His touch is sensitive and delicate. Thomas' formal juxtapositions are deceptively simple and frequently uncanny. They invite and reward close, quiet scrutiny.

The exhibit runs from August 30th through September 25th with a reception on Friday, September 13th, from 6-8 pm. The Hilles Gallery at Creative Arts Workshop is free and open to the public; hours are Monday-Friday, 9-7 pm, and Saturday 9-4:30 pm. For details, visit creativeartsworkshop.org, or contact Robin Green, Gallery and Programs Manager, at (203) 562-4927.

ABOUT CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

Creative Arts Workshop is a nonprofit regional center for the creativity and the visual arts that has served the Greater New Haven area since 1961. As an anchor institution located in the heart of the award-winning Audubon Arts District, CAW offers a wide range of visual arts classes in its own three-story building with fully-equipped studios in eight disciplines, and an active exhibition and public programming schedule. More than 1,500 adults and young people enroll annually in the more than 350 courses offered by Creative Arts Workshop, while thousands of visitors enjoy the free exhibitions in its destination galleries throughout the year. CAW's classes are open to students of all ages and levels of experience.

CAW is supported by its membership, tuition fees, sponsorship, contributions from individuals, charitable foundations, public funding, and from special events and sales.

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