



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## EVERYTHING IS GOLDEN, A SOLO EXHIBITION BY ARTIST LIZZY MARTINEZ, OPENS IN THE MILLSTONE GALLERY AT COCA

**ST. LOUIS (September 13, 2022)**—[\*Everything Is Golden\*](#), a solo exhibition by St. Louis-based artist Lizzy Martinez, opens as the first exhibition of the 2022–2023 Millstone Gallery season at COCA on September 16 at 6:00 p.m. In the exhibition, Martinez reclaims discarded materials to create feminist sculptural interpretations of mythological figures. Her pieces explore both the delicacy and rawness of cement, tiles, ceramic, wood, and metals in their ability to retell long-known stories of Olympian gods and mythical creatures, while reclaiming the female experience and centrality in them. The exhibition runs September 16–November 6, 2022.

**WHAT:** *Everything Is Golden* Exhibition

*Everything Is Golden* asks us about the reasons behind survival: how do we decide when an object becomes trash? What are the stories we choose to reproduce and preserve? Is there a bias to how women are portrayed within these stories? The antiquity-like sculptures challenge a broader cultural reverence to a violent past that, although crowded with scenes of abuse and erasure of women, is celebrated as legendary. Just as bold hands hold between their fingers fragments of glass and resin, Martinez’s work envisions new practices of care where marginalized characters are rediscovered from the ruins of history.

Within this solo exhibition, Martinez displays some of the cornerstones of her studio practice: a trial-and-error method as an ever-evolving artistic process, her enthusiasm for the human body in movement and flesh, and the centrality of gender politics, especially in the discussions of what a woman artist can create and work with.

**WHEN:** Exhibition is free and open to the public September 16–November 6, 2022, during COCA’s regularly scheduled business hours.

Exhibition Opening Night Reception is September 16 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Millstone Gallery at COCA  
6880 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63130

**AVAILABLE INTERVIEWS:** Lizzy Martinez, [lizzymartinez.com](http://lizzymartinez.com)

**EVENT WEBSITE:** [cocastl.org/calendar/everything-is-golden](http://cocastl.org/calendar/everything-is-golden)

**SPONSORS:** The Millstone Gallery is made possible by The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation, Bernoudy Foundation, and The Millstone Foundation.

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## **ABOUT COCA**

COCA's mission is to *enrich lives and build community through the arts*. With a commitment to equity and access, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds. One of the most diverse cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves more than 50,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from more than 200 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of more than 200 artists at the heart of their work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and on-site at its campus in University City.

## **COCA HEALTH & SAFETY PROCEDURES**

COCA continues to monitor current COVID-19 conditions in the St. Louis region, and protocols are subject to change, as necessary, to address the conditions. To review COCA's current Health & Safety Procedures, visit [cocastl.org/our-campus/health-safety-procedures/](https://cocastl.org/our-campus/health-safety-procedures/).