



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **LOOSE THREADS BY DOUGLAS DALE OPENS JANUARY 26 IN THE MILLSTONE GALLERY AT COCA**

**ST. LOUIS (January 23, 2024)**—[Loose Threads](#), an exhibition by Douglas Dale, opens in the [Millstone Gallery](#) at COCA on Friday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m. With their distinctive use of yarn glued to wood, Dale creates domestic and imagined landscapes made by carefully contouring surfaces line by line. *Loose Threads* runs January 26–April 7, 2024.

**WHAT:** ***Loose Threads* by Douglas Dale**  
A single thread out of place can distort the illusion of perfect embroidery or reduce the perception of the quality of a smooth hand of fabric. Its free movement against the whole piece becomes a threat (the threatening thread) to strict notions of perfection and unity. Douglas Dale offers us several loose threads in this collection of their latest work. Each of their sculptures and shadowboxes contains the spectrum between rigidity and looseness as an invitation to reflect on other polarities enforced by society: roughness and tenderness, normativity and queerness, masculine and feminine.

The exhibition's interactive wall encourages visitors to create their own fabric sculptures by collaboratively covering domestic objects with yarn. Either sharing objects usually found in the intimacy of their houses or following the vulnerable act of repetition while creating patterns and stitches, this art-making experience challenges participants to disrupt given structures and craft a unique multiple version of themselves.

**WHEN:** The exhibition is free and open to the public January 26–April 7, 2024, during COCA's regularly scheduled business hours.

*Loose Threads* Opening Night Reception is Friday, January 26, from 6:00–8:00 p.m., with a member preview at 5:30 p.m.

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

**AVAILABLE INTERVIEWS:** Karla Aguilar, COCA Curator-in-Residence  
Douglas Dale, Artist

**WEBSITE:** [cocastl.org/calendar/douglas-dale-exhibition/](https://cocastl.org/calendar/douglas-dale-exhibition/)

**SUPPORTERS:** The Millstone Gallery is made possible by The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation, Bernoudy Foundation, and The Millstone Foundation. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Millstone Gallery is free and open to the public. Since 2008, the Millstone Gallery has brought the community together to share and experience contemporary art, make personal connections to the work, and gain a greater understanding of the artistic process.

### **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 onsite at its campus in University City.

### **ABOUT IMLS**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit [imls.gov](http://imls.gov).

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