

**The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, Will Present the Exhibition
Gilded: Contemporary Artists Explore Value and Worth
February 8–June 22, 2024**



Hung Liu, *Olympia Triptych*, 2015.

December 12, 2023—Hanover, N.H.— The Hood Museum of Art is delighted to be a venue for the traveling exhibition *Gilded: Contemporary Artists Explore Value and Worth*, February 8–June 22, 2024. Including the work of 17 artists in a wide range of media, the exhibition explores the use and significance of gold in artistic expression today. The exhibition was organized by Dr. Emily Stamey, Elizabeth McIver Weatherspoon Curator of Academic Programming and Head of Exhibitions at the Weatherspoon Art Museum at UNC Greensboro. It features the work of Radcliffe Bailey, Larissa Bates, William Cordova, Angela Fraleigh, Gajin Fujita, Nicholas Galanin, Liz Glynn, Shan Goshorn, Sherin Guirguis, Titus Kaphar, Hung Liu, James Nares, Ronny Quevedo, Shinji Turner-Yamamoto, Danh Vo, Stacy Lynn Waddell, and Summer Wheat.

Across time and cultures, gold has served as a metaphor for what we value most. Symbolically, it stands in for goodness, excellence, brilliance, and wealth. Craftspeople have long pounded gold into thin sheets called leaves, which are applied in a process called *gilding*. In realms of the spiritual, this gilding illuminates sacred texts, gives otherworldly luster to holy spaces, and allows religious sculptures to shine.

While we most frequently associate gold leaf with historical traditions, the material appears frequently in the work of contemporary artists as well. Those represented in this exhibition turn to gilding as a means of reconsidering our value systems.



Gajin Fujita, *Invincible Kings of This Mad Mad World*, 2017.

Gilding images of graffiti and sidewalks, cardboard boxes, and architectural fragments, they ask us to see the beauty in what we overlook and honor that which we throw away. Through gilding images of people—often those who have been disempowered or forgotten—they ask us to bolster our collective humanity. If, as the saying goes, “all that glitters is not gold,” then the artists represented here offer an inverse proposition: perhaps that which does not always shine is most worthy of our attention.

Ashley Offill, the Hood Museum’s curator of collections, says, “*Gilded* at the Hood Museum will feature well-known contemporary artists such as Titus Kaphur and Radcliffe Bailey as well as up-and-coming voices including Larissa Bates and Liz Glynn. The artworks included in the exhibition are rich not only in their materiality but also in the avenues they open up for discussions of history, identity, and societal value. These questions are foundational interrogations of the past and society’s assumptions about value.”

Travel

Gilded: Contemporary Artists Explore Value and Worth debuted at the Weatherspoon Art Museum at UNC Greensboro (September 10, 2022–April 8, 2023) and traveled to the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, TN (September 22, 2023–January 8, 2024) and the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, in Hanover, NH (February 8–June 22, 2024).

The exhibition's presentation at the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, is generously supported by the Ray Winfield Smith 1918 Memorial Fund.

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by a scholarly catalogue published by the Weatherspoon Art Museum, including contributions by art historian Rebecca Zorach and poet Joshua Bennett. This publication is shared electronically on the museum's website for free to all interested readers ([link](#)). As curator Emily Stamey notes, "It seemed only fitting that, for an exhibition featuring artworks that raise critical questions about who and what we value, we would affirm the value of inclusion through free access to the information and knowledge created in this project."

About the Hood Museum of Art

The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, which opened in 1985, centers art and people in teaching and learning through inclusive and robust academic, cultural, and civic engagements with art and its histories. It seeks to advance learning, care, and connections through the reach and relevance of visual art and material culture as a nexus for the exchange of ideas.

The 67,000 objects in the Hood Museum's collection represent the diverse artistic traditions of six continents, including, broadly, Native American, European and American, Asian, Indigenous Australian, African, and Melanesian art. The museum collects, preserves, and makes available for interpretation these works in the public trust and for the benefit of all.

In early 2019, the Hood Museum concluded a physical expansion and renovation project with architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien and their team, as well as a reinvigoration of what it does and how it does it. More information:

<https://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/explore/museum>

About Dartmouth College

Dartmouth College educates the most promising students and prepares them for a lifetime of learning and of responsible leadership, through a faculty dedicated to teaching and the creation of knowledge. The Dartmouth model is unique in higher education: the fusion of a renowned liberal arts college and robust research university where students and faculty partner to take on the world's great challenges. Since its founding in 1769, Dartmouth has provided an intimate and inspirational setting where talented faculty, students, and staff—diverse in background but united in purpose—contribute to the strength of an exciting academic community that cuts easily across disciplines.

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Image Captions

Hung Liu, *Olympia Triptych*, 2015. Composition gold leaf, digital transparencies, resin, and hand-painting with lithography ink on panel. Three parts, 41 x 15 1/2, 41 x 60 1/8, 41 x 20 in. Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro. © Estate of Hung Liu, photo courtesy of the Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNC Greensboro

Gajin Fujita, *Invincible Kings of This Mad Mad World*, 2017. Spray paint, paint markers, Mean Streak, 24k gold leaf, 12k white gold leaf, platinum leaf, and gloss finish on panel; four parts, 96 x 48 in. each. Courtesy of the artist and L.A. Louver, Venice, California. © Gajin Fujita, photo courtesy of the artist and L.A. Louver, Venice, California