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The Robert Colescott Estate Joins Gladstone Gallery

Announcement Coincides with the Artist's Centennial to Be Celebrated with a Major Exhibition at the Tacoma Art Museum this Year

Gladstone announces global representation of The Robert Colescott Estate, the bold, satirical painter dedicated to revealing the complexities, contradictions and shortfalls of American social political history. The announcement coincides with the artist's centennial this year, marked by a major solo exhibition at the Tacoma Art Museum opening this December. A solo exhibition at Gladstone is planned for 2026 in New York, reflecting the gallery's ongoing stewardship of the legacies of pivotal historical artists.

Robert Colescott's (b. 1925, Oakland, CA; d. 2009, Tucson, AZ) nearly six-decade career included his landmark solo exhibition at the 47th Venice Biennale in 1997, where he was the first Black artist to represent the United States in a solo exhibition. He is best known for his smart, gestural, and high-keyed large-scale, chromatic canvases in which he inserted racial stereotypes into cartoon versions of famous art historical works to point to the exclusion of Black people from dominant historical narratives. Fusing high culture with vernacular traditions, including folk art, pulp fiction, and comics, Colescott offered unprecedented ways to both illustrate and combat the stereotypes that fueled racist thought. His large and varied oeuvre reflects his career-spanning search for new ideas, influences, and directions in his work. As a master of figurative painting whose work interrogates notions of identity, Colescott has been the standard-bearer for artists of color of subsequent generations to claim their rightful place in art history.

"Colescott's enlightened work is more relevant than ever during this challenging time in history," said Max Falkenstein, Gladstone's Senior Partner. "We are deeply motivated to ensure that Colescott's legacy is continually recognized, examined, and celebrated in the United States and around the world. He was truly a pioneer, and his radical vision is perfectly aligned with the artists we work with — fearless, disruptive, and instrumental in shaping the course of contemporary art."

In addition to his own artistic practice, Colescott was a long-time teacher of painting who earned the prestigious Endowed Regents' Professorship following teaching roles at institutions including the Portland State University, Oregon; The San Francisco Art Institute; University of California, Berkeley; and University of Arizona, Tucson, where he achieved emeritus status. In 1966 and 1967, he was the first visiting professor of art at the American University in Cairo. Colescott's early studies in Paris under Fernand Léger were instrumental in the artist's embrace of the human figure. Prior to studying in Paris, the artist received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of

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California, Berkeley, under the GI Bill, following his service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In celebration of the artist's centennial in 2025, the Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) opens *The One-Two Punch: 100 Years of Robert Colescott* on December 5. To further commemorate the artist, the exhibition coincides with the opening TAM's permanent space for "The Current, An Artist Award," an annual award bestowed to a Black artist living and working in Tacoma. Colescott was also the subject of a major retrospective, *Art and Race Matters: The Career of Robert Colescott*, which traveled to the New Museum, New York (2022); Chicago Cultural Center (2022); Sarasota Art Museum (2021); and the Portland Art Museum, Oregon (2020). The exhibition originated at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati in 2019, curated by Lowery Stokes Sims and Matthew Weseley, and was accompanied by a comprehensive monograph published by Rizzoli Electa. Colescott's first retrospective, *Robert Colescott: A Retrospective*, organized by the San Jose Museum of Art (San Jose, CA) in 1987, traveled to the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD; Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR; Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH; Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX; New Museum, New York City, NY; and the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA. Additional solo exhibitions include *Robert Colescott: Women at Venus Over Manhattan* Gallery in New York in 2023, and *Robert Colescott: The Cairo Years* at the Tahrir Cultural Center, Cairo, in 2021.

Colescott's work is represented in public collections internationally, including the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, which acquired Colescott's iconic painting *George Washington Carver Crossing the Delaware* (1975), and the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, following the artist's long friendship with Arlene Schnitzer, founder of Fountain Gallery (Portland), the first gallery to represent Colescott.

Additional representation in public collections includes the Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH; Art Bridges Foundation, Bentonville, AR; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD; Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; BY ART MATTERS, Hangzhou, China; California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Crocker Museum of Art, Sacramento, CA; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Delaware Museum of Art, Wilmington, DE; Denver Museum of Art, Denver, CO; Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI; de Young Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, Los Angeles, CA; Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, UC Davis, CA; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; Morgan Library and Museum, New York, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA; Portland Museum of Art, Portland, OR; Pinault Collection, Paris, France; Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; Seattle Art Museum,

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Seattle, WA; Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA; The Tate, London, United Kingdom; Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ; University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone Gallery is known for its commitment to artists whose prescient approaches and experimental practices have defined the contours of contemporary art. The gallery has long been an active partner in the cultivation of iconoclastic careers, fostering a roster of artists recognized for their ground-breaking contributions. Headquartered in New York and including outposts in both Brussels and Seoul, Gladstone's impact extends globally, enabling both the presentation of new bodies of work, and an amplification of the international reach of its artists. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is steward to the legacies of pivotal historical artists and serves as an advocate for the enduring power of art. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

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