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Guerrilla Girls Press Release

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New Exhibition!

“Not Ready to Make Nice: Guerrilla Girls in the Artworld and Beyond”

September 4, 2014 through November 14, 2014

Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery

Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts

Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (July 3, 2014) – Featuring rarely-shown works by the ground-breaking, feminist-activist artists collective, **the Guerrilla Girls**, and an appearance by one of the original members of the group (Sept. 23, Barone Campus Center), Fairfield University’s **Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery** presents its newest exhibition, **“Not Ready to Make Nice: Guerrilla Girls in the Artworld and Beyond,”** on view from **Thursday, September 4, 2014**, through **Friday, November 14, 2014**. An opening reception, free and open to the public, will take place at the Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 4. The Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery is located in Fairfield University’s Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

“Not Ready to Make Nice: Guerrilla Girls in the Artworld and Beyond” is a multimedia exhibition that documents and contextualizes the historical and ongoing work of the Guerrilla Girls, focusing primarily on work from the past decade. Appearing only in gorilla masks and assuming the names of dead women artists, this important activist group has kept its anonymity intact for nearly three decades, using an enigmatic approach to uncover truths about sexism and prejudice in the art world and beyond. Fighting for equality and social change, the Guerrilla Girls have remained powerfully and consistently active since their groundbreaking arrival on the art scene in 1985. Beginning with their famous poster campaigns of the 1980s and continuing with large-scale international projects, the Guerrilla Girls fearlessly took on the art establishment in ways that were both radical and revealing. Using “facts, humor, and fake fur,” they exposed the discriminatory collecting and exhibiting practices of the most famous and powerful art dealers,

curators, and collectors. Expanding their work to include non-visual arts media in the 1990s, the Guerrilla Girls have more recently scrutinized the lack of women film directors, homelessness, and the environmental crisis.

“Not Ready to Make Nice: Guerrilla Girls in the Artworld and Beyond” is drawn primarily from work of the past decade and consists of rarely shown projects that trace the collective’s artistic and activist influence around the globe. In addition, a selection of iconic work from the ‘80s and ‘90s illustrates the formative development of the group’s philosophy and their conceptual approach to arts activism. Documentary material, including ephemera, behind-the-scenes photos, and secret anecdotes, reveal the Guerrilla Girls’ process and the events that drive their incisive institutional interventions. Visitors can peruse the artists’ favorite “love letters and hate mail,” and are invited to contribute their own voices to interactive installations. **“Not Ready to Make Nice”** was curated by Neysa Page-Lieberman and organized by Columbia College, Chicago.

Exhibition programming includes a free public lecture **at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23**, featuring, **“Frida Kahlo,” an original member of the Guerrilla Girls**, together with Q & A with the exhibition’s **curator, Neysa Page-Lieberman**. Entitled “A Guerrilla Girls Gig: A Dialogue on Discrimination in Art, Media, and Politics” the program takes place in the Oak Room of Fairfield University’s Barone Campus Center and is supported in part by a grant from the Humanities Institute, College of Arts and Sciences. The Westport Arts Center is a community partner for this event. On **Thursday, October 23, from 12:00 p.m. to 1 p.m.**, a gallery talk, free and open to the public, with **Fairfield University associate professor of Art History, Marice Rose**, will take place in the Walsh Art Gallery. On **Saturday, November 8, a Family Day**, sponsored by *Morris Media*, takes place at Fairfield University’s Bellarmine Museum of Art, complementing this exhibition with the theme of “Street Art.” The Bellarmine Museum will be open from **12 noon to 5 p.m.** on that day, with free activities for children from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission to the **Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery** is free. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Closed Sunday and Monday). The Gallery is also open one hour prior to curtain and during intermission of Quick Center performances and closed at any time the Quick Center is closed for

the holidays. The Quick Center is located on the campus of Fairfield University, 1073 North Benson Road, in Fairfield, CT.

JPEG Caption: Guerrilla Girls, *Benvenuti alla Biennale Femminista* (detail), 2005-12

Fairfield University offers its students and the regional community a wide array of opportunities to enjoy the arts and enrich their lives through study, performance, appreciation, and thought. The annual Arts & Minds season of events at Fairfield provides an outstanding array of cultural and intellectual events that include the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts season, the popular Open VISIONS Forum lecture series, professional and student performances, art exhibits, special lectures, and a myriad of other lifelong learning opportunities. For further information, visit www.fairfield.edu/arts.

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