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High-res images available [here](#).

## THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS COULTER FUSSELL: THE RAW MATERIALS OF ESACPE

On view: January 17 – February 29, 2020

**CHARLESTON, SC** – The [Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#) at the College of Charleston presents an exhibition of all new work by Coulter Fussell entitled *The Raw Materials of Escape*. The exhibition is on view from January 17 to February 29, 2020 at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. There will be an opening reception on Friday, January 17 from 6:30PM – 8:00PM. Halsey Institute members and College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff receive free admission to the opening reception. All non-members will be charged \$5 admission for the event. The Halsey Institute’s gallery hours are Monday – Saturday, 11:00AM to 4:00PM, and 11:00AM to 7:00PM on Thursdays, closed on Sundays. The Halsey Institute’s galleries are open to the public and admission is free.

### ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Coulter Fussell’s early-developed artsvievw perceives craft and other arts as indistinguishable from one another. Painting, sculpture, and textile work are one solitary entity in her mind. From youth, the combination developed into an unintentional mash-up, resulting in quilts and textile works that defy expectations of the medium. Fussell relies on the no-holds barred nature of contemporary painting rules to free her compositions from the constraints of pattern. In turn, she simultaneously relies on the strict discipline of traditional craftwork to act as a self-editing tool.

For her exhibition at the Halsey Institute, Fussell will be creating all-new work. *The Raw Materials of Escape* is curated by Katie Hirsch, curator and director of strategic partnerships at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, and a faculty member at the College of Charleston, lecturing in the Arts Management program.

Katie Hirsch states, “Fussell’s work challenges traditional quilting practice in that she creates pieces that are composed like paintings. The interplay between light and dark in her work makes reference to foreground and background while retaining the wholeness traditionally associated with a quilt.”

## EVENTS DURING THE RAW MATERIALS OF ESCAPE

All events take place in the Halsey Institute's galleries unless otherwise noted. Find out more here: [EVENTS](#)

### Opening Reception

**Friday, January 17, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

Halsey Institute members and College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff receive free admission to the opening reception. All non-members will be charged \$5 admission for the event.

*Join the Halsey Institute staff, Advisory Board, and interns in a celebration of our newest exhibition. Sponsored by Icebox Bar Services.*

### Artist Talk: Coulter Fussell

**Saturday, January 18, 2:00 PM**

Free admission and open to the public

*Exhibiting artist Coulter Fussell will speak with visitors about her exhibition, art-making process, and life story.*

### Naked Ladies Clothing Swap

**Thursday, January 23, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

Free admission and open to the public

*Join the Halsey Institute staff and The Naked Lady Society for a huge clothing swap in the galleries. All are welcome and area non-profits and the CofC Office of Sustainability will be on-hand to share programs and tips for reducing your textile-based carbon footprint.*

### Halsey Talks: Arts & Craft

**Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 PM**

Free admission and open to the public

*Halsey Talks are an ongoing series of roundtable discussions on intriguing concepts in art. In the revered halls of art museums around the world, high art forms are usually confined to specific media: oil on canvas, marble, bronze, and so on. But are these the only materials that we consider to be fine art?*

### Membership Morning

**Friday, January 31, 9:00 AM**

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

*Join the Halsey Institute's curators and your fellow members for a casual morning of good coffee and conversations. Sponsored by Counter Culture Coffee.*

### Family Day!

**Sunday, February 9, 12:00PM – 4:00PM**

Halsey Institute members receive free admission. All non-member families will be charged \$5 admission for the event.

*Join the Halsey Institute staff for a fun afternoon of art-making, family-focused guided tours of the exhibition, snacks and more!*

**Film screening: *The Quilts of Gee's Bend***

**Thursday, February 20, 7:00 PM**

CofC School of Sciences and Mathematics building, 202 Calhoun Street

Free admission and open to the public

*This documentary brings to light the brilliant, bold and dynamic quilts created by a group of women who live in the isolated, African American hamlet of Gee's Bend, Alabama. Q&A with filmmaker to follow.*

**Curator-led Tour of *The Raw Materials of Escape***

**Thursday, February 27, 6:00 PM**

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

*Join the Halsey Institute's curators for an exclusive guided tour of the exhibition. Explore the exhibitions, get insider knowledge, meet other Halsey Institute lovers!*

**ABOUT COULTER FUSSELL**

Coulter Fussell was born and raised in Columbus, Georgia, an old textile town situated on the Chattahoochee River, on the eastern border of Alabama. The culture of Columbus and the surrounding river valley—including the neighboring military base of Fort Benning, housing Infantry and Airborne—play a significant role in Coulter's work. Fussell's father was an arts museum curator throughout her childhood while her mother is a life-long quilter and educator. Running through museum galleries on any given day after school and then going home to watch her mother sew for hours was standard. The combination resulted an early-developed artsvievw where craft and other arts are indistinguishable from one another. Painting, sculpture, and textile work became one solitary entity in her mind. From youth, the combination developed into an unintentional mash-up. Fussell relies on the no-holds barred nature of contemporary painting rules to free her compositions from the constraints of pattern. In turn, she simultaneously relies on the strict discipline of traditional craftwork to act as a self-editing tool.

She now lives in Water Valley, a small town in the northern Hill Country of Mississippi. There, she runs her store and studio, [Yalorun Textiles](#). Having been in the service industry for most of her life, Coulter is also a waitress in the neighboring town of Oxford, Mississippi. Fussell lives in Water Valley with her two young sons, Amos Henry and Booker, and their cat Janet.

Coulter Fussell's website is <https://www.coulterfussell.com/>

**ABOUT THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.



Location: The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts, College of Charleston

161 Calhoun Street, 1st Floor (corner of St. Philip & Calhoun Streets), Charleston, SC 29401

Parking: Available at metered spaces on surrounding streets and in the St. Philip and George Street Garages

Gallery hours: Monday – Saturday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, open until 7:00 PM on Thursdays during exhibitions, or by appointment. Closed on Sundays. FREE ADMISSION and OPEN to the public.

Tours: Free guided group tours are offered through the Halsey Institute’s Looking to See program.

Email [HalseyTours@cofc.edu](mailto:HalseyTours@cofc.edu) for inquiries. Free, staff-led guided tours are available at 2:00 PM every Saturday during exhibitions unless superseded by a program.

For more information, call 843.953.4422, visit [halsey.cofc.edu](http://halsey.cofc.edu), or e-mail [halsey@cofc.edu](mailto:halsey@cofc.edu)

Social media accounts: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

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