

ARCADIA EXHIBITIONS presents

KITTY RAUTH THE MIRROR ROOM

MAR 18 – OCT 11, 2024

Harrison Gallery

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Arcadia Exhibitions is pleased to present “Kitty Rauth: The Mirror Room,” from March 18 through October 11, 2024 in the Harrison Gallery, University Commons.

In their recent work, the Chicago-based artist uses cast sugar, often formed to replicate decorative glassware, as a poetic material to engage in conversations around classed systems of etiquette, racialized labor, and the body politics that surround the marketing and production of the product.

For “The Mirror Room,” Rauth, a 2014 graduate of Arcadia, continues to explore these issues by focusing on the personal coincidence that Grey Towers Castle and the former William Welsh Harrison Estate, the current home of Arcadia University, were first constructed utilizing proceeds from the sugar refining industry in the late nineteenth century.

The title of the exhibition refers to one of the most iconic spaces within Grey Towers Castle, an immense, elaborately furnished room on the first floor with mirrored surfaces on all four walls, used originally by the Harrisons and today by the University for hosting special events and celebrations. For the artist, the space acts simultaneously as a symbol for the unfettered opulence of the so-called “Gilded Age”, as well as a place for introspection and self-analysis.

In the gallery, coincidentally named for William Welsh Harrison, Rauth appropriates and arrange objects and architectural forms from the well-known Cheltenham Township landmark to create a new space for both the artist and visitors to reflect upon the dysfunctional systems of power that led to the accumulation of wealth that funded the estate’s creation. Further, this act of contemplation takes place in the presence of the Castle, which can be clearly viewed through the windows of the gallery.