

For Immediate Release  
May 2024

## **Janet Gorzegno: Soul Retrieval**

**May 21 – June 15, 2024**

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, May 23, 5-8 pm

**Gallery Hours:** Tuesday – Saturday 11-6pm

The Bowery Gallery is pleased to present Janet Gorzegno: Soul Retrieval, the artist's sixth solo exhibition with the gallery, Gorzegno will present a collection of gouache and egg tempera paintings for this exhibition. The paintings reflect Gorzegno's practice of working meditatively and serve as a conduit to help viewers experience inner awareness and contemplation. The works are striking, intimate and iconic through a spectrum of pure and muted tones. Measuring from 3 inches square to around 10 x 14 inches, they're presented in singular and triptych formats. The dominant recurring feature in the works is a human head in profile, symbolic of consciousness.

Gorzegno's paintings possess the stillness and otherworldliness of early Renaissance paintings, though Gorzegno's heads are not intended as recognizable likenesses. They're imagined. Colorful amalgams of spirit and personhood distilled. None are known by the artist in this life. A layered 'quietness' surrounds the heads, as if a shift in consciousness has not transpired but is about to. Gorzegno works with these shifts in mind, harnessing her intense concentration where imagination and discovery coalesce in color, form, and balance.

Recent experiences with loss have led her to reflect on the passage of time and life's mysteries. In a spirit of healing and restoration, she revisits the visual language of former works, pulling elements into the present, and recontextualizing her visual language. Up close and personal, each painting is distinct. Stepping back, collectively viewing the exhibition, one senses being part of something familiar as if you are in the presence of something both ancient and contemporary.

Gorzegno's paintings invite connection. They are a conduit for contemplation on endings, awakenings, and transformations. Janet Gorzegno received her MFA in Painting from Yale School of Art, studied at the New York Studio School and received her BA from Drew University.

Gorzegno has an abiding interest in sacred art forms and music, and has studied the traditional art of Icon Writing alongside master practitioners. Gorzegno has also been a fellow at numerous artist residencies, from the Moulin à Nef in Auvillar,

France to residencies stateside – from northeast Georgia to upstate New York. Gorzegno exhibits her work nationally and internationally. She is a longtime educator of drawing and painting, currently a Professor of Art for The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. When not in the studio, she can be found playing roots music with friends.

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