

Lawsuit Against Gladstone Gallery Leaders Alleges Employee Abuse, Discrimination

A suit submitted in a New York state court in January has brought forth declares versus modern art dealership Barbara Gladstone and her senior partner, Max Falkenstein, who were implicated of strikingback versus a previous personnel member at Gladstone Gallery after she raised issues about declared discrimination and infractions associated to worker settlement at the gallery.

In the grievance, Laura Higgins, who served as a gallery supervisor for Gladstone in New York from 2016 to 2021, declares she suffered both spoken and physical abuse while working at the gallery and was ultimately required to leave her task.

Higgins claims she was “yelled at [and] disparaged,” and that Gladstone when apparently tossed a handbook at her. In a declaration veryfirst released by *Artnet News*, a agent for Gladstone stated, “The proof will program that Ms. Higgins’ declares absence benefit, which we mean to protect versus powerfully.” When reached by *ARTnews*, the gallery decreased to supply more remark.

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Higgins, who is now a handling director at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery in New York, declares that alongwith Gladstone, Falkenstein “conspired” to force her out of her task, acting in a “retaliatory” way after she raised issues over pay variations, consistingof that the gallery “maintained a gender-based pay policy that preferred a male subordinate worker over a veteran female remarkable worker,” according to the filing. The fit likewise declares that a woman chief registrar got no health advantages and made at least \$10,000 less than a male registrar, who did get health advantages amountingto more than \$13,000.

In another example of declared discrimination at the gallery, the problem explains a bothersome hiring circumstance that tookplace in 2020, after gallery staffmembers effectively lobbied for “series of variety and anti-discrimination trainings” for all personnel in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. Higgins declares that Gladstone made racially prejudiced declarations while hiring to fill an assistant position. The claim states that Gladstone mistakenly presumed the race of one prospect as Black, after knowing that the candidate “worked at a Gallery in Harlem, New York.” According to the grievance, Gladstone stated she was “glad since now we would have another colored individual on personnel.” She presumably decreased to relocation forward in the workingwith procedure,

nevertheless, after knowing that the candidate was, in reality, white.

Shortly prior to her departure from the gallery, Higgins found possibly unlawful practices by one gallery director that appeared to be what the match explains as “blatant infractions” of New York wage laws. In the legal filing, Higgins declared that the gallery’s monetary director, Stacy Tunis, wrongly tape-recorded the number of hours worked by non-exempt staffmembers to prevent correctly designating state-mandated overtime pay. These workers were likewise, at numerous points, unlawfully advised not to report if they had worked for more than 40 hours in a week. The filing declares those staffmembers, which consist of at least 10 junior-level staffers who worked as front desk and sales assistants, “are owed considerable quantities of cash for overdue overtime.”

After Higgins left her position last July, the filing likewise declares that Gladstone struck back versus her by offering “a incorrect evaluation of her efficiency” to a potential brand-new company, artist George Condo, whose work Gladstone had actually revealed in the 1980s. After Higgins signed an work agreement and took part in personnel on-boarding with Condo’s studio, her work deal was rescinded. Condo informed *Artnet* that his studio “ultimately chose upon another candidate.”

The problem competes that “Gladstone acted with malice” and developed “an environment that was hazardous, hostile, and prejudiced,” including that the circumstance triggered Higgins “severe psychological distress” and “loss of past and future earnings.”

Source: [Lawsuit Against Gladstone Gallery Leaders Alleges Employee Abuse, Discrimination.](#)