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Processional: A Performance on Language and Gender Bias

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PROCESSIONAL:

A PERFORMANCE ON LANGUAGE AND GENDER BIAS

A Thesis

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Master of Fine Arts

Laurie Ann Barnes

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Indiana University of Pennsylvania
School of Graduate Studies and Research
Department of Art

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Pulling influence from installation and performance artists such as Coco Fusco and Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Ann Hamilton, and Ana Mendieta, as well as sculptor Rachel Whiteread, my Master of Fine Arts thesis project manifested as an immersive installation and live performance addressing the nuances of gender inequality in contemporary American society. My autobiographical experiences and observations, as well as feminist philosophies of language and identity politics inspired my pursuit to unveil and critique social “norms” that predetermine power disparities between men and women. I specifically investigate ways religious tradition and our use of gendered language contribute to the social acceptability of violence against women.