

2006-2007

Artists and Scholars

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF  
**CULTURE & SOCIETY**  
PRESENTS

# Lawrence Coates

**Tuesday, October 17, 2006**

**1:30 p.m.**

Prout Chapel

Between Shatzel and Williams Hall

## Temporary Landscapes

**What role does the pastoral ideal play in Americans' relationship to the land?  
How does suburban development fit into American cultural traditions?  
What happens to the imagined safety and stability of suburban space in a time of crisis and change?**

Author and Professor Lawrence Coates explores these questions – and many others – in his fiction that takes place in the Santa Clara Valley of California. His novel-in-progress, *Temporary Landscapes*, tells the story of a family living in the suburbs of the Santa Clara Valley, suburbs that, fueled by a new economy based on defense work and high tech industry, sprung up after World War II and replaced the region's agrarian businesses and pastoral ambiance. In Coates's novel, set in 2003, the elderly World War II-era residents are in the twilight of their lives, while younger residents are stirred both by the dawn of renewed military conflicts in Iraq and the Middle East and the confusions that entail living in a destabilized region. In his talk, Professor Coates will discuss his research on the Post-World War II suburb and how his research is feeding into his novel-in-progress.

Lawrence Coates is Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Literature at BGSU. Currently a fellow at ICS, he is the author of two novels, *The Master of Monterey* (2003) and *The Blossom Festival* (1999), as well as numerous fiction and nonfiction pieces. *The Master of Monterey* was selected as a finalist for the *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award, and *The Blossom Festival* was selected for the Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Series and awarded both the 1999 Utah Book Award and the 1999 Western States Book Award. Dr. Coates also received a National Endowment of the Arts fellowship in fiction, and has been editor of *Quarterly West* and a board member of Writers at Work, an annual writers conference. He is currently at work on a novel entitled *Temporary Landscapes*.

Special Thanks to the Office of the Provost for Research and to the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences for their support of this work. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call (419) 372-0585