WHITE CUBE

THEASTER GATES

1973 Born in Chicago

Lives and works in Chicago

Education

2025	Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Knox College
2021	Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Massachusetts College of Art and Design
2018	Honorary Doctorate, University of the Arts London
2006	Iowa State University, M.S. Urban Planning, Ceramics, Religious Studies
1998	University of Cape Town, M.A. Fine Arts, Religious Studies
1996	Iowa State University, B.S. Urban Planning, Ceramics

Solo exhibitions

2025 *Unto Thee*, Smart Museum of Art, Chicago (forthcoming)

resonance, Anthony Gallery, Chicago

The Ever-Present Hand, Albuquerque Foundation, Sintra, Portugal

Prada Mode, Abu Dhabi, UAE

1965: Malcolm in Winter: A Translation Exercise, White Cube Bermondsey, London

Billy Sings Amazing Grace, Dalhousie Art Gallery, Halifax, Canada

2024 When Clouds Roll Away: Reflection and Restoration from the Johnson Archive,

Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago

AESOP (An Extended Song of Our People), 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line Station,

Chicago

Le chant du centre, LUMA, Arles

The Gift and the Renege, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Texas

Listening Room, Seishodo Yamashita The Room, Kyoto, Japan

Afro-Mingei, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo

Black Mystic, Gagosian Le Bourget, Paris Wonder Working Power, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond Hold Me, Hold Me, White Cube New York

2023 *Min / Mon*, LUMA, Arles

2022 Young Lords and Their Traces, New Museum, New York

Afro Mingei, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas

Vestment, Gagosian, New York

The Listening House, 2022 Aichi Triennale, Tokoname, Japan

Black Chapel, Serpentine Pavilion 2022, London

Monument in Waiting, 2020, Drexel University Campus, Philadelphia Theaster Gates: Public Notice, Frederick Kiesler Foundation, Vienna

ASHEN, Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland

No More Dark Days, White Cube West Palm Beach Vessels, Benaki Museum of Greek Culture, Athens

2021 A Clay Sermon, Whitechapel Gallery, London

Slight Intervention #5. Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Oh, The Wind Oh, The Wind, White Cube Mason's Yard, London

How to Sell Hardware, GRAY Warehouse, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago

China Cabinet, Prada Rhong Zhai, Shanghai

Bad Neon, TANK, Shanghai

2020 Breathing, Perez Art Museum, Miami

Black Vessel, Gagosian, New York

Amalgam, Tate Liverpool, UK

Black Image Corporation, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta

2019 Black Chapel, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany

Black Image Corporation, PRADA Mode, The Store X, 180 The Strand, London

Afro-Mingei, White Cube Mason's Yard, London

Assembly Hall, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

Line Drawing for Shirt and Cloak, Regen Projects, Los Angeles

Black Madonna, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin

Every Circle Needs a Square, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago

Amalgam, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Facsimile Cabinet of Women Origin Stories, Colby Museum of Art, Waterville,

Maine

2018 The Black Image Corporation, Fondazione Prada, Milan

Black Madonna, Sprengel Museum, Hannover Black Madonna, Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland

In the Tower, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC Tarry Skies and Psalms for Now, White Cube Hong Kong The Minor Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC But to be a Poor Race, Regen Projects, Los Angeles The Black Monastic, IHME Festival, Helsinki 2016 Heavy Sketches, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago How to Build a House Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto Black Archive, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria *True Value*, Fondazione Prada, Milan 2015 Sanctum, Situations, Bristol, UK Freedom of Assembly, White Cube, London 2013 Accumulated Effects of Migration, Kavi Gupta, Chicago A Way of Working, Vera List Center for Arts and Politics, New York My Back, My Wheel and My Will, White Cube São Paulo and White Cube Hong 13th Ballad, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago To Make the Thing that Makes the Things, Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia 2012 Soul Manufacturing Corporation, Locust Projects, Miami My Labor is My Protest, White Cube Bermondsey, London 2011 Theaster Gates: The Listening Room, Seattle Art Museum, Washington An Epitaph for Civil Rights, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles An Epitaph for Civil Rights and Other Domesticated Structures, Kavi Gupta, Chicago 2010 To Speculate Darkly: Theaster Gates and Dave, the Slave Potter, Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin Dry Bones and Other Parables From the North, Bruno David Gallery and the Pulitzer Museum of Art, St. Louis, Missouri 2009 Holiness in Three Parts, Boots Contemporary Art Space, St. Louis, Missouri On Another Note: Extractions from the Chicago Jazz Archive Collection, DOVA Temporary, Chicago Temple Exercises, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Erogenous Wonder, An Installation, Salvage One, Chicago Symposium on Contemporary Painting, Performance, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

2017

2008 Yamaguchi in Residence, Experimental Station, Chicago

Dinner Intervention, Culture Community #1 meets Culture Community #2,

Chicago

2007 Artists Connect, Performance Lecture, 16th Century Japanese Aesthetics, Art

Institute of Chicago

Uprising, Voice, Violin and Cello, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago

Life After Qualls, African American Artists Respond to the works of Michael Qualls,

South Side Community Arts Center, Chicago

Un-housed. Gentrification and the Constant Need for Space, architecture and

design conference, Chicago

2005 Rachmaninov and the Slave Spiritual, Piano, Violin and Voice, Ames, Iowa

The American Negro; Too good to be True, St. George Cathedral, Cape Town People of the Mud, An Exhibition of 15 Ceramic Artists, Department of Cultural

Affairs, Chicago

Mississippi Houses, Inax Ceramic Museum, Tokoname, Japan

Facing Fuji: 10 Sculptors in Japan, Tokoname Museum of Ceramic History, Japan

Theaster Gates, Yakimono Ceramics Exhibition, Tokoname, Japan

Selected group exhibitions

2025 Things which are per se continuous: The Michael Nesbitt Collection, Winnipeg,

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

A Kin to Clay, Tinworks, Bozeman, MT

Fundação de Serralves, Porto

For Real For Real, daadgalerie, Berlin

Inequalities, 24th Triennale Milano, Italy

Apparitions, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago

Pairings, Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland

At The Edge, Art Week Riyadh 2025, Saudi Arabia

The Story of Public Art, MAPS – Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Køge, Denmark

Prada Mode, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Elevation 1049: ENERGIES, Luma Foundation, Gstaad, Switzerland

The Life of Things, Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, Netherlands

Space by The Pierre Lorinet Collection, presented by Art Outreach, The Factory,

New Bahru, Singapore

ART SG Film, ArtScience Museum Cinema, Singapore

A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration, Chicago Cultural

Center, Illinois; BAMPFA, Berkeley, CA (2024); California African American

Museum, Los Angeles (2023); Brooklyn Museum, New York; Baltimore Museum of

Art, USA (2022); Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, USA (2022)

2024 *Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st Century Art and Poetics*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA

Golden Veins: The Art of Kintsugi and Transformation, Alison Bradley Projects, New York

Edges of Ailey, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Frieze Sculpture 2024, The Regent's Park, London

Panorama Monferrato, ITALICS, Monferrato, Piedmont, Italy

Bright Signs: Spotlight on Video Art, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

Social Abstraction, Gagosian Beverly Hills, Los Angeles

REVERB, The Vinyl Factory, 180 Strand, London

A Yellow Sun, A Green Sun, A Yellow Sun, A Red Sun, A Blue Sun, Fondazione MAXXI, Rome

Sharjah24: Drawing Time: Duets, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE

Day for Night: New American Realism, Galleria Nazionali, Palazzo Barberini, Rome Leaps of Faith, Z33, Hasselt, Belgium

When You See Me: Visibility in Contemporary Art/History, Dallas Museum of Art, Texas

Art Without Heroes: Mingei, William Morris Gallery, London

Stroud Film Festival, Gloucestershire, UK

Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina, High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2023); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2022)

Regeneration: Black Cinema, 1898-1971, Detroit Institute of Art, Michigan; The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles (2022)

Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics, The Institutum, Gillman Barracks, Singapore *Books*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York

2023 Chopped & Screwed, White Cube New York

Everybody Talks About the Weather, Fondazione Prada, Venice
The Laboratory of the Future, 18th International Architecture Biennale, Venice
Icônes, Palazzo Grassi - Punta della Dogana - Pinault Collection, Venice
On Paper: Gray at 60, Richard Gray Gallery, New York
La Scherma dell'arta Testrino di Palazzo Grassi, Campo San Samuela Venice

Lo Schermo dell'arte, Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi, Campo San Samuele, Venice Deep Horizons, The Roberts Institute of Art and the Middlesborough Collection, Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art, UK

On Paper: Gray at 60, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago

Sharjah Biennial 15: Thinking Historically in the Present, UAE

2022 *Monochrome Multitudes*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago

Drum Listens to Heart, The Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco Citing Black Geographies, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago

Les Souffles des Ancêtres (The Breath of the Ancestors), Congo Biennale, National Museum of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kinshasa

FRONT Triennial, Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio

HOUSE PARTY: R.S.V.P. B.Y.O.B., Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC

Pacific Century – E Hoʻomau no Moananuiākea, Hawaii Triennial, Hawaii Contemporary

From Moment to Movement: Picturing Protest in the Kramlich Collection, Manetti Shrem Museum, University of California-Davis, California

City, White Cube West Palm Beach

Working Thought: Art, Labor, and the American Economy, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh

This Tender Fragile Thing, The School, Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, New York

2021 *The Narrow Gate of the Here-and-Now: Protest and Conflict,* Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland

The Flames: The Age of Ceramics, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris Visions of a Shared Humanity, Curated by Franklin Sirmans, Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Crumbling Sets. An exhibition curated by Ragnar Kjartansson, The V-A-C Foundation, Moscow

Earthbound: Contemporary Landscape from the Roberts Institute of Art, Sheffield Museums, Millennium Gallery

Correspondence: Off-site Project Part Three, White Cube Off-Site, White Cube Aspen, Colorado

Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America, New Museum, New York Social Works, Gagosian Gallery, New York

The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Crystal Bridges Museum, Arkansas STOP Painting: An exhibition by Peter Fischli, Fondazione Prada, Venice Promise, Witness, Remembrance, Speed Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA Lost and Looking, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN, USA Light of Progress, Artspace New Haven, Connecticut

2020 Field of Dreams, Parrish Art Museum, Watermill, NY

Future Histories: Theaster Gates and Cauleen Smith, SFMoMA, San Francisco Ubunto: Five Rooms from the Harry David Collection, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens

Encounter, K11 Musea X White Cube, K11 Musea, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong Transparent Things, Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art, London American Pastoral, Gagosian Britannia Street, London Blanc Sur Blanc, Gagosian Paris

2019 Streams of Consciousness, Bamako Biennial, Bamako, Mali ...and other such stories, Chicago Architectural Biennial, Chicago Mask in Present-Day Art, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Switzerland

Continuing Abstraction, Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland
Fundacion Banco Santander, Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, Spain
The Source, Carmignac Foundation, Porquerolles Island, France
Icons of Style: A Century of Fashion Photography, Museum of Fine Arts Houston,
Texas

2018 *MONUMENTality,* The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles

New Materialism. Kunsthalle Bonniers. Stockholm

Memory Palace, White Cube, London

Remembering Tomorrow, White Cube, Hong Kong

Travellers: Stepping into the Unknown, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan

2017 L'emozione dei COLORI nell'arte, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy

Moscow Biennale, State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Faire Avec El Anatsui, Pinault Collection, Palazzo Grassi, Venice

(X) A Fantasy, The David Roberts Art Foundation, London

An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940-

2017, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Dark Shadows, Monaco Madame

2016 In Context: Africans in America, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

The Color Line, musée du Quai Branly, Paris

The Underground Museum, Non-fiction, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los

Angeles

2015 Contemporary Conversations, Ottawa Residence

SALTWATER: A Theory of Thought Forms, 14th Istanbul Biennial

All the World's Futures, 56th Venice Biennial

2014 Living in the Material World, Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck, Austria

Ebony/Jet, Studio Museum Harlem, New York

Artes Mundi 6, Cardiff, UK

Prospect 3, New Orleans, Louisiana

Experiments with Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence, The Menil Collection,

Houston, Texas

Homeland [IN]Security: Vanishing Dreams, Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, New

York

Made By Brazilians... Creative Invasion, Cidade Matarazzo, São Paulo,

When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South, Studio

Museum, Harlem, New York; NSU Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; The

Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts

More Material, Salon 94, New York

Living in the Material World, Kunstmuseum Krefeld, Germany; Galerie im

Taxispalais Innsbruck, Austria

Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliott and Kimberly Perry, Collection, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan Contemporary Conversations, U.S. Embassy Madrid, Spain

2013 Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art, Studio Museum, New York

We'll Make Out Better than Okay, The Charlotte Street Foundation's La Esquina Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri

The Spirit of Utopia, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London Labor and Wait, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California Sculpture in the Close, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, UK BNKUDRWTR, Art Basel Unlimited, Switzerland

Transforming the Known: Works from the Bert Kreuk Collection, Gemeente Museum, The Hague

Prima Materia, Punta della Dogana, Venice

Do It, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York,; Gund Gallery at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio; tranzit, Budapest, Hungary; MU artspace, Eindhoven, Netherlands; Manchester Art Gallery; Samek Art Gallery, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Handwerker Gallery, Ithaca, New York; Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Kosovo; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, 2014; Musée de la danse, Rennes, France, 2014; Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, 2014; The Episcopal Academy, Newtown Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2014; Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2014; The Galleries at Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2014; Denler Art Gallery, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 2014; Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia, 2015; KKW Kunst Kraft Werk, Leipzig, Germany, 2015; Napa Valley Museum, Yountville, CA, 2015; Kunsthal Rotterdam, Netherlands, 2015; Numu – El Nuevo Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 2015; Kunsthal Aarhus, Denmark, 2015; Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, 2015; Tallina Kunstihoone, Tallinn, 2016; Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, California, 2016; Galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal, Québec, 2016; Galerija Umjetnina, Split, Croatia, 2016; Frac des pays de la Loire/HAB Galerie, Nantes, France, 2016; Art Museum of the University of Memphis, Tennessee, 2016; Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, Texas, 2016; Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, Kansas, 2016; Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey, 2017 (organized by Independent Curators International)

Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Texas; Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, 2013; Studio Museum Harlem, New York, 2013; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2014

The Sound of Painting, Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, Turin, Italy IN/SITU, EXPO Chicago
Beyond Beauty, Twig Gallery, Brussels

2012

Storytelling as Craft; Chapter One, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville 12 Ballads for Huguenot House, Documenta 13, Kassel, Germany 40 Under 40, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago; Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Texas, 2013; SITE Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2014; Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, 2014; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 2015

2011 Social Structures, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Idaho
The North Wind and the Sun, Diverse Works, Houston
Instruments of Resurrection, Roots & Culture, Chicago

2010 Grain of Emptiness: Buddhism Inspired Contemporary Art, Rubin Museum of Art, New York

Hand + Made Contemporary: Just a Closer Walk with Thee, Toward a Legendary Black Clay

Superhero, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas Whitney Biennial 2010, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

2009 Shoe Shine Stands and other archetypal structures of Blackness, Nada Art Fair, Miami

2008 *Heartland,* Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands; Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, 2010

Branded Alongside the Cabinet of Curiosities, Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin *Tea Shacks, Collard Greens and the Preservation of Soul*, Center for the Proliferation of Afro-Asian Artifacts, Chicago

Contemporary Response to the Plantation Cabinet, circa 1782, Chipstone Foundation Estate, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2007 Storied Toy: The Emotional and Imaginative Relationship Between a Boy and his Toys (plus a few other things), University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls

Selected awards

2023

MOCA Legend 2025, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, New York
 39th World Cultural Council Award, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

25th Vincent Scully Prize

Isamu Noguchi Award

2021 Frederick Kiesler Prize for Architecture and the Arts American Academy of Arts and Letters Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Massachusetts College of Art and Design 2020 Crystal Award, World Economic Arts Forum 2019 American Academy of Arts & Sciences 2018 J.C Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development Nasher Sculpture Prize Honorary Doctor of the University of the Arts London 2017 French Legion d'Honneur Sprengel Museum Kurt Schwitters Prize Adlai Stevenson Public Service Award 2015 San Francisco Art Institute Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree KLEO Center Kleo Barrett Angel Award Artes Mundi 6 2014 Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago Community Impact Award Landmarks Illinois Legendary Landmarks, Landmark in the Making Award University of Chicago Diversity Leadership Award 2013 The Urban Land Institute Chicago Vision Award for Programming, for Arts Incubator, The University of Chicago, Illinois South East Chicago Commission (SECC) Connecting Communities Through the Arts Award, for Arts Incubator, The University of Chicago, Illinois Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation Award for Excellence, for Arts Incubator, The University of Chicago, Illinois 2012 Wall Street Journal Arts Innovator of the Year New School Vera List Center Prize for Art and Politics 2009 The Joyce Foundation Joyce Award **Graham Foundation Architecture Award**

Lectures

Artadia Artadia Award

2008

2021	Black Vessel, Des Moines Art Center Race to Justice, UC Santa Barbara Art & Lecture Summit
2019	New Ways of Seeing: Art and Architecture in a Changing World, Frieze Academy Art & Architecture Summit, Royal Institute of British Architects, London Night of Ideas, Institute Francais, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris Vision and Justice, Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
2018	Theaster Gates on Land, Lunder Institute for American Art at Colby College, Colby College, Waterville, Maine Theaster Gates in conversation with Ragnar Kjartansson, Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland The Black Madonna, The Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal Artist as Social Activist: A Conversation with Theaster Gates, FOG Art Fair, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
2017	Thelma Golden and Theaster Gates in Conversation, The Bank, Chicago The Art Sermon, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
2016	The Sackler Lecture 2016 – Theaster Gates, V&A Museum, London
2015	Learning from Roofers: Theaster Gates in Conversation, Tate Modern, London Public Art: Art in the City, PUBLIC 2015, Perth, Australia
2014	The Artist and Cultural Spaces, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts Art Interventions and Regenerative Design, Culture Lab, Detroit, Michigan deFINE ART, Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia See, Sit, Sup, Sip, Sing., Studio Museum, Harlem, New York
2013	Theaster Gates: A Way of Working, Sears Crosstown, Memphis, Tennessee 12 Ballads for Huguenot House, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, Illinois Theaster Gates, Rapp Lecture in Contemporary Art. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto Theaster Gates: A Way of Working, Vera List Arts Center, New York One State Together in the Arts Conference, Quad Cities, Illinois Thought Leadership Speaker Series, Kunstmuseum Basel MPC Think & Drink, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago Artist Talk: Theaster Gates with David Levin and Hamza Walker, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago To Make the Thing that Makes the Thing, 16th Annual Benesse Lecture with Theaster Gates, Cincinnati Art Museum Current Perspectives Lecture Series, Kansas City Art Institute, Missouri I Believe in Places, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, Nebraska Theaster Gates, Architecture Lecture, University of Detroit, Mercy, Michigan

Creating Heat – The Artist as Catalyst, TED x UNC, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Soul Manufacturing Corporation: To Make the Thing that Makes the Things, Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia

2012 Kinetic, Conversations in Contemporary Art, American University, Washington, DC A Story About Space: Public Lecture with Theaster Gates, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

My Labor is my Protest / Artist Agency in the Re-Creation of Space, Maryland Institute College of Arts, Baltimore

2011 Theaster Gates and The Listening Room, SAM Talks, Seattle Art Museum Artist Talk: Theaster Gates, California College of the Arts, San Francisco Theaster Gates, Featured Artists Lecture Series, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, Colorado 7 Projects, Arche Works, Chicago Artist Lecture, The Armory Show, New York

2010 To Speculate Darkly by Theaster Gates, Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin Sermons on the City, A Performance-Talk, Loeb Fellows, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

New Paradigms: How 'We' Influence Art: Conversation with Dawoud Bey, Theaster Gates and Kehinde Wiley, Art Institute of Chicago

2009 Arts and Activism in St. Louis, Detroit, and Chicago, Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center, Chicago

Intersections of Art and Architecture, Catalyst Iowa, Des Moines Shacks, Sheds, and Other Small Spaces, University of North Carolina, Charlotte Accidental Publics, The Dorchester Project Symposium, Northwestern University, Chicago

To be Pocket: Militaristic Effeminacy, The 'Hood' and Adorno's Last Sermon, or, It's Over When The Black Marching Band Goes Home, Our Literal Speed, Chicago Unpacking Yamaguchi: Myth, Ecstasy and the Black Church, School of the Art Institute, Chicago

Why Make Art Now, Performance Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2008 Dave: Neo-Slave Narratives and Contemporary Black Identity — I made this Pot, Performance Lecture. Paris

Selected projects and residencies

2024 Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, Montgomery, AL

2023	A Monument to Listening, 2023, A gift of the Mellon Foundation, Public Sculpture Commission, Tom Lee Memorial Park, Memphis, TN
2022	Monument in Waiting, 2020, Public Sculpture Commission, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
2021	Sculpture Milwaukee 2021, co-curator with Michelle Grabner Royal Institute or British Architects Honorary Fellow
2019	Visiting Artist in Residence, the American Academy in Rome, Rome Obayashi Foundation Research Program, Visions of the City, Tokyo, Japan Sonic Imagination, Black Artist Retreat, Drill Hall, Park Armory, New York Processions: Discussions of the Sonic Imagination, Performance Residency, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC An Extended Song of Our People (AESOP), 95th Street Chicago Transport Authority Commission, Chicago
2018	Inaugural Distinguished Visiting Artist and Director of the Artist Initiatives, Lunder Institute for American Art, Colby College, Waterville, Maine Processions: Prayer for the Black Madonna, Performance Residency, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC Johnson Publishing Story, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago Artist in Residence, Getty Research Institute, Getty Center, Los Angeles
2017	IHME project 2017: The Black Charismatic, IHME Contemporary Art Festival, Helsinki Residency, Casa Wabi, Hidalgo, Mexico Residency, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Captiva, Florida Processions: Plantation Lullabies, Performance Residency, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC
2016	Processions: The Runners, Performance Residency, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC
2015	5 Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago Black Artists Retreat, Chicago
2014	Back of the House: 2014-15, Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects External Partnerships, School of the Art Institute of Chicago The Black Monastic, Museu Serralves, Porto, Portugal Retreat, EXPO Chicago
2012-13	Residency, Creative Time, Haiti
2010-11	Loeb Fellowship, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

2010 Residency, John Michael Kohler Center, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, January

Residency, Artadia New York, International Studio and Curatorial Program

Residency, New York

Selected Public Collections

Aishti Foundation, Lebanon

Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada

Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois

Art in Embassies - U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC

Astrup Fearnley Museum, Norway

Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York

Buffalo AKG Art Museum, New York

Burger Collection, Zurich

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA

CCS Bard / Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

CIAC, The Isabel and Agustin Coppel Collection, Mexico City

Celine Art Project, Paris

Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine, USA

Coppel Collection, Mexico City

Dallas Museum of Art, Texas

DePaul Art Museum, Chicago

Des Moines Art Center, Iowa

Fondation Carmignac, Hyères, France

Fondazione Prada, Milan

Forman Family Collection, New York and Philadelphia

Fundación Calparsoro, Madrid

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC

K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong

Kistefos Museum, Norway

Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland

Long Museum, Shanghai and Chong Qing, China

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California

LUMA Foundation, Arles, France

Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles

Mellon Foundation, New York

The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas

Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Chicago

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles

Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Florida

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York

Museum MACAN (Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara), Jakarta, Indonesia

Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, Netherlands

Muzej Lah, Bled, Slovenia

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach, Florida

NSU Art Museum of Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Florida

Pinault Collection, France

Rennie Collection. Vancouver

The Roberts Institute of Art. London

Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), California

Sifang Museum of Contemporary Art, Nanjing, China

Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, Illinois

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC),

Washington, DC

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

TANK Museum, Shanghai

Tate, London

TIA Collection, Santa Fe, New Mexico

UBS Art Collection, London

Ueshima Museum, Tokyo

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA), Richmond, USA

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Winsing Arts Foundation, Taiwan

YUZ Museum, Shanghai, China

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