

RICHARD
GRAY
GALLERY

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THEASTER GATES

Born in Chicago, Illinois, 1973. Lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

EDUCATION

- 2006 M.S., Urban Planning, Ceramics, Religious Studies, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
- 1998 M.A., Fine Arts, Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1996 B.S., Urban Planning, Ceramics, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Theaster Gates: The Black Image Corporation*, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2019 *Black Chapel*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
Black Image Corporation, 180 The Strand, London, England
Line Drawing for Shirt and Cloak, Regen Projects, Los Angeles, California
Theaster Gates: Assembly Hall, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2020)
Theaster Gates: Afro-Mingei, White Cube, London, England
Every Square Needs a Circle, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois [cat.]
Theaster Gates: Facsimile Cabinet of Women Origin Stories, Colby College Museum of Art, Colby College, Waterville, Maine
Amalgam, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France; traveled to Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, England (2020)
Theaster Gates: Selected Works, Gagosian, Paris, France
- 2018 *The Black Image Corporation*, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy (2019) [cat.]; traveled to Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany (2019)
Theaster Gates: Black Madonna, Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland [cat.]; traveled to the Sprengel Museum Hanover, Hanover, Germany

- 2018 *Nasher Prize Laureate*, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas
- 2017 *The Black Charismatic*, IHME Contemporary Art Festival, Helsinki, Finland
Theaster Gates: Tarry Skies and Psalms for Now, White Cube, Hong Kong
Theaster Gates: The Minor Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Theaster Gates: But To Be A Poor Race, Regen Projects, Los Angeles, California
- 2016 *Theaster Gates: Heavy Sketches*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
Theaster Gates: How to Build a House Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
Theaster Gates: True Value, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy [cat.]
Theaster Gates: Black Archive, Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria [cat.]
- 2015 *Sanctum*, Temple Church, Bristol, England
Freedom of Assembly, White Cube, London, England
- 2014 *Theaster Gates: The Black Monastic*, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto, Portugal [cat.]
- 2013 *Accumulated Effects of Migration*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois
A Way of Working, The Vera List Center for Arts and Politics, New York, New York
My Back, My Wheel and My Will, White Cube, Hong Kong; White Cube, São Paulo, Brazil
13th Ballad, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois
To Make the Thing that Makes the Things, Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2012 *Soul Manufacturing Corporation*, Locust Projects, Miami, Florida
My Labor Is My Protest, White Cube, Bermondsey, London, England [cat.]
- 2011 *Theaster Gates: The Listening Room*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington (2012)
An Epitaph for Civil Rights, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California (2012)
Theaster Gates, Arts Club London, London, England (2012)
An Epitaph for Civil Rights and Other Domesticated Structures, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois
- 2010 *Bones Dry and Other Parables From the North*, Bruno David Gallery and the Pulitzer Museum of Art, St. Louis, Missouri [cat.]
To Speculate Darkly: Theaster Gates and Dave, the Slave Potter, Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin [cat]
- 2009 *On Another Note: Extractions from the Chicago Jazz Archive Collection*, DOVA Temporary, Chicago, Illinois
Holiness in Three Parts, Boots Contemporary Art Space, St. Louis, Missouri

- Temple Exercises*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois
Erogenous Wonder, An Installation, Salvage One, Chicago, Illinois
- 2008 *Dinner Intervention, Culture Community #1 meets Culture Community #2*, Chicago, Illinois
Yamaguchi in Residence, Experimental Station, Chicago, Illinois
- 2007 *Plate Convergence*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois
Life After Qualls, South Side Community Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois
Recreation of the Candy "Stow", Chicago, Illinois
Un-housed, Gentrification and the constant need for Space, Architecture and Design Conference, Chicago, Illinois
- 2005 *The American Negro; Too good to be True*, St. George Cathedral, Cape Town, South Africa
Mississippi Houses, Inax Ceramic Museum, Tokoname, Japan
Theaster Gates, Yakimono Ceramics Exhibition, Tokoname, Japan

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Meridians*, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, Florida
Where the Oceans Meet, Museum of Art + Design, Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida (2020)
...and other such stories, 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, Illinois (2020)
The Source, Fondation Carmignac, Paris, France
A Time Capsule Continued, Parkett Exhibition Space, Zurich, Switzerland
5 Ways In: Themes from the Collection, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2021)
Transitions and Transformations, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (2020)
- 2018 *MONUMENTality*, Getty Research Institute, Getty Center, Los Angeles, California (2019)
Days of Reading, Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, Canada
OVERRIDE | A Billboard Project, EXPO Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
New Materialism, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
Remembering Tomorrow: Artworks and Archives, White Cube, Hong Kong
She sees the shadows, MOSTYN, Wales, United Kingdom
Memory Palace, White Cube, London, England
Afro-Atlantic Histories, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil [cat.]
Jason Moran, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Travelers: Stepping into the Unknown, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan

- 2017
- Solidary & Solitary: The Pamela J. Joyner & Alfred J. Giuffrida Collection*, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, Louisiana (2018)
- Clouds Forests*, 7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art, New Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia (2018)
- Dimensions of Black*, Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, California
- (X) *A Fantasy*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, England
- An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940 - 2017*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
- The Legacy of Lynching: Confronting Racial Terror in America*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, New York
- Simple Passion, Complex Vision: The Darryl Atwell Collection*, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, North Carolina (2018)
- Urban Planning: Contemporary Art and the City 1967 - 2017*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri
- Colori*, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy
- Cosmopolis #1: Collective Intelligence*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2016
- Question the Wall Itself*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2017) [cat.]
- In Context: Africans in America*, Goodman Gallery & Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Whoville*, The Peninsula Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- On Space and Place: Contemporary Art from Chicago, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Vancouver*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois
- Southern Accent: Seeking the American South in Contemporary Art*, Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, North Carolina [cat.]; traveled to the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky (2017)
- Good Dreams, Bad Dreams – American Mythologies*, Aishti Foundation, Antelias, Lebanon (2017) [cat.]
- Seeing Round Corners*, Turner Contemporary, Margate, England
- You go to my head*, Galerie Templon, Brussels, Belgium
- Non Fiction*, The Underground Museum, Los Angeles, California (2017)
- 2015
- SALTWATER: A Theory of Thought Forms*, 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey [cat.]
- All the World's Futures*, 56th Venice Biennale, Corderie, Venice, Italy [cat.]
- Contemporary Conversations*, U.S. Embassy Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
- 2014
- Highlight of the Collection II*, Berezdivin Collection, Espacio 1414, Santurce, Puerto Rico (2015)
- Living in the Material World: Materiality in Contemporary Art*, Kunstmuseum Krefeld, Krefeld, Germany; traveled to Galerie im Taxispalais Innsbruck, Austria (2015) [cat.]

Impulse, Reason, Sense, Conflict. Abstract Art from the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros collection, CIFO Art Space, Miami, Florida (2015) [cat.]

Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art, Studio Museum Harlem, New York, New York (2015) [cat.]

Prospect 3: Notes for Now, New Orleans, Louisiana (2015) [cat.]

Artes Mundi 6, National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales (2015)

Experiments with the Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence, The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas (2015) [cat.]; traveled to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Geneva, Switzerland (2016)

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

Made by Brazilians...Creative Invasion, Cidade Matarazzo, São Paulo, Brazil [cat.]

More Material, Salon 94, New York, New York

When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South, Studio Museum Harlem, New York, New York [cat.]; traveled to the NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts (2015)

Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliott and Kimberly Perry Collection, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan [cat.]

Contemporary Conversations, U.S. Embassy Madrid, Madrid, Spain

2013

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

Etched in Collective History, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Alabama

Sculpture in the Close, Jesus College, Cambridge, Massachusetts

BNKUDRWTR, Art Basel Unlimited 2013, Basel, Switzerland

Transforming the Known: Works from The Bert Kreuk Collection, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, Netherlands [cat.]

Prima Materia, Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy (2015) [cat.]

Do It, Independent Curators International, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, New York [cat.]; traveled to Gund Gallery at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio; tranzit, Budapest, Hungary; MU artspace, Eindhoven, Netherlands; Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, England; Samek Art Gallery, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Handwerker Gallery, Ithaca, New York; Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Prishtina, Kosovo (2014); Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, Utah (2014); Musée de la danse, Rennes, France (2014); Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia (2014); The Episcopal Academy, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania (2014); Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, 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, California (2015); Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands (2015); Numu – El Nuevo Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Guatemala City, Guatemala (2015); Kunsthal Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark; Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio (2015); Tallina Kunstihoone, Tallinn, Estonia (2016); Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, California (2016); Galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal, Québec, Canada (2016); Galerija Umjetnina, Split, Croatia (2016); Frac des pays de la Loire/HAB Galerie, Nantes, France (2016); Art Museum of the University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee (2016); Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, Texas (2016); Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, Kansas (2016); Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey (2017)

The Spirit of Utopia, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, England

Labour and Wait, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California [cat.]

2012

Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, Texas (2013) [cat.]; traveled to the Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, New York (2013); Studio Museum Harlem, New York, New York, November 14 (2014); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2015)

The Sound of Painting, Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, Turin, Italy [cat.]

IN/SITU: Temporary Landmarks and Moving Situations, EXPO Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois

Beyond Beauty, TWIG Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Storytelling as Craft; Chapter One, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, Kentucky

40 Under 40, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C. (2013) [cat.]

12 Ballads for Huguenot House, dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany [cat.]

Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art, Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, Illinois [cat.]; traveled to the Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, Texas (2013); SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico (2014); Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio (2014); and the Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2015)

2011

Social Structures, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Sun Valley, Idaho

The North Wind and the Sun, Diverseworks, Houston, Texas

Instruments of Resurrection, Roots & Culture, Chicago, Illinois

2010

Grain of Emptiness: Buddhism Inspired Contemporary Art, Rubin Museum of Art, New York, New York (2011)

Hand+Made Contemporary: Just a Closer Walk With Thee, Toward a Legendary Black Clay Superhero, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas

2010 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York [cat.]

- Gestures of Resistance*, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, Oregon
- 2009 *Shoe Shine Stands and other archetypal structures of Blackness*, Nada Art Fair, Miami, Florida
- 2008 *Heartland*, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands (2009) [cat.]; traveled to the Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (2010)
Branded Alongside the Cabinet of Curiosities, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Contemporary Response to the Plantation Cabinet, circa 1782, Chipstone Foundation Estate, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Tea Shacks, Collard Greens and the Preservation of Soul, Center for the Proliferations of Afro-Asian Artifacts, Chicago, Illinois
- 2005 *Facing Fuji: 10 Sculptors in Japan*, Tokoname Museum of Ceramic History, Tokoname, Japan
People of the Mud, An exhibition of 15 ceramic artists, Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, Illinois

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York
- Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
- Berezdivin Collection, Santurce, Puerto Rico
- Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, New York
- Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, Florida
- Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas
- David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California
- Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, California
- Menil Collection, Houston, Texas
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois
- Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Miami, Florida
- National Gallery of Canada, Ontario, Canada
- Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida
- NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- Pérez Art Museum, Miami, Florida
- Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Pinault Collection, Venice, Italy
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California
- Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China
- Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

- The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York
- Tate Modern, London, England
- University of Michigan Museum of Art, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, Virginia
- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York

PROJECTS

- 2019 *Black Monastic*, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Illinois
Black Artists Retreat 2019: Sonic Imagination, Park Avenue Armory, New York, New York
Collective Intimacy, 180 The Strand, London, England
In the Absence of Light, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018 *A Johnson Publishing Story*, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, Illinois
Black Artists Retreat, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, Illinois
- 2017 *Black Artists Retreat*, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, Illinois
- 2016 *Black Artists Retreat*, Chicago, Illinois
- 2015 - present *ArtHouse: A Social Kitchen*, Gary, Indiana
- 2015 *Black Artists Retreat*, Chicago, Illinois
Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, Illinois
- 2014 *Back of the House: 2014-2015*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Black Artists Retreat, Chicago, Illinois
Retreat, Valerie Carberry Gallery and Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 2013 *Black Artists Retreat*, Chicago, Illinois
- 2012 *12 Ballads for Huguenot House*, dOCUMENTA 13, Kassel, Germany
Creative Time Global Residency, Haiti
Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art, Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, Illinois; Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, Texas; SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2010 *Pushing the Archive, Art History and a Mover's Uniform*, Armory Show, New York, New York

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

- 2019 - present Co-Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council, Prada, Milan, Italy
- 2018 - present Distinguished Visiting Artist and Director of Artist Initiatives, Lunder Institute for American Art, Colby Museum of Art, Colby College, Waterville, Maine
Senior Advisor for Cultural Innovation and Advisor to the Dean of Harris Public Policy, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2014 - present Professor, Department of Visual Arts, Humanities Department, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2009 - present Chairman and Founder of Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
- 2008 - 2018 Director, Arts and Public Life Initiative, Office of the Provost, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2008 - 2014 Affiliated Lecturer, Department of Humanities, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Lecturer, Department of Visual Arts, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2006 - 2008 Humanities Division, Office of the Dean, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

AWARDS

- 2020 Crystal Award, World Economic Forum, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2019 Artist in Residence, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, California
Visions of the City Grant, Obayashi Foundation, Chuo, Tokyo
- 2018 Honorary Degree, Colby College, Waterville, Maine
Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
Honorary Doctorate, University of the Arts London, London, England
J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development, Urban Land Institute, Washington, D.C.
Nasher Prize, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas
- 2017 Award in Architecture, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, New York
Edmund N. Bacon Award, Center for Architecture and Design, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Kurt Schwitters Prize, Sprengel Museum, Hanover, Germany
- 2016 Harman-Eisner Artist in Residence Program, The Aspen Institute, Washington, D.C.

Richman Distinguished Fellowship in Public Life, Brandeis University, Waltham,
Massachusetts
Visual Arts and Performing Arts - Criticism and Practice, American Academy of Arts
& Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts

- 2015
Artes Mundi 6, Artes Mundi, Cardiff, United Kingdom
Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco,
California
Kleo Barrett Angel Award, KLEO Center, Chicago, Illinois
Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award for Social Progress, Smithsonian Institute,
Washington, D.C.
- 2014
Community Impact Award, Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Chicago,
Illinois
Distinguished Artist Program, Union League Club of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Diversity Leadership Award, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Honorary Doctorate, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Grant, The University of Chicago, Chicago,
Illinois
Legendary Landmarks, Landmark in the Making Award, Landmarks Illinois, Chicago,
Illinois
- 2013
Award for Excellence, for Art Incubator, Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation,
The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Chicago Vision Award for Programming, The Urban Land Institute, The University of
Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Connecting Communities Through the Arts Award, South East Chicago Commission
(SECC, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2012
Artist Commission, The Armory Show, 69th Regiment Armory, New York
Global Residency, Creative Time, New York, New York
Innovator of the Year, Wall Street Journal Arts, New York, New York
Kippy Fellow, United States Artists USA, Chicago, Illinois
Prize for Art and Politics, New School Vera List Center, New York, New York
Visual Arts Grant, Creative Capital, New York, New York
- 2011
Fellowship, Gwendolyn Knight and Jacob Lawrence, Seattle, Washington
Grant, Graham Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
- 2010
Art / Industry Residency, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Artist in Residence, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, Oregon
Grant, Harpo Foundation shared with Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha,
Nebraska
Loeb Fellowship, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge,
Massachusetts

New York Residency, Arcadia New York, New York, New York

2009 Architecture Award, Graham Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
Joyce Award, The Joyce Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

2008 Artadia Award, Artadia, New York, New York