

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

- 2026 *Chawan Cabinet*, Prada Home, Milan, Italy
Theaster Gates: Glorious Robe, Hoosoo Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
Dave: All My Relations, Gagosian, New York, New York
Theaster Gates: And Other Paintings, White Cube, Paris, France
- 2025 *Theaster Gates: OH, YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK TO THE CITY*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (2026)
Theaster Gates: Unto Thee, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (2026)
The Ever-Present Hand, Albuquerque Foundation, Sintra, Portugal
1965: Malcolm in Winter: A Translation Exercise, White Cube, Bermondsey, United Kingdom
Theaster Gates, Billy Sings Amazing Grace, Dalhousie Art Gallery, Halifax, Canada
Theaster Gates: The Glorious Robe, Hosoo Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
- 2024 *Le chant du centre*, LUMA Arles, Arles, France
When Clouds Roll Away: Reflection and Restoration from the Johnson Archive, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, IL
Theaster Gates: The Gift and The Renege, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, Texas
Afro-Mingei, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Black Mystic, Gagosian, Le Bourget, Paris, France
Wonder Working Power, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia

Hold Me, Hold Me, Hold Me, White Cube New York, New York, New York

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2023 *A Monument to Listening*, Tom Lee Park, Memphis, Tennessee
Min | Mon, LUMA Arles, Arles, France

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2022 *Afro Mingei*, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas
Vestment, Gagosian, New York, New York
Young Lords and Their Traces, New Museum, New York, New York [cat.] (2023)
Monument in Waiting, Drexel University, Philadelphia
ASHEN, Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland
Serpentine Pavilion 2022: Black Chapel, Serpentine, London, United Kingdom
Theaster Gates: Public Notice, Frederick Kiesler Foundation, Vienna
Theaster Gates: Vessels, Benaki Museum of Greek Culture, Athens
No More Dark Days, White Cube West Palm Beach, Florida
The Listening House, 2022 Aichi Triennale, Tokoname, Japan

2021 *A Clay Sermon*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2022)
Theaster Gates: Slight Intervention #5, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
Oh, The Wind Oh, The Wind, White Cube Mason's Yard, London, United Kingdom
Theaster Gates: How to Sell Hardware, Gray Warehouse, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
Theaster Gates: Light of Progress, Artspace, New Haven, Connecticut
Theaster Gates: Bad Neon, TANK No. 3, TANK Shanghai, Shanghai, China
China Cabinet, Prada Rong Zhai, Shanghai, China

2020 *Breathing*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, Florida (2021)
Future Histories: Theaster Gates and Cauleen Smith, SFMOMA, San Francisco, California (2021)
Black Vessel, Gagosian, New York, New York
Theaster Gates: The Black Image Corporation, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, Georgia

2019 *Black Chapel*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
Black Image Corporation, 180 The Strand, London, United Kingdom
Line Drawing for Shirt and Cloak, Regen Projects, Los Angeles, California
Assembly Hall, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2020)
Every Square Needs a Circle, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois [cat.]
Facsimile Cabinet of Women Origin Stories, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine
Amalgam, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France; traveled to Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom (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.];

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traveled to the Sprengel Museum Hannover, Hannover, Germany
2018 Nasher Prize Laureate, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas

- 2017 *The Black Charismatic*, IHME Contemporary Art Festival, Helsinki, Finland
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, California
- 2016 *Heavy Sketches*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
How to Build a House Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
True Value, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy [cat.]
Theaster Gates: Black Archive, Kunsthhaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria [cat.]
- 2015 *Sanctum*, Temple Church, Bristol, England
Freedom of Assembly, White Cube London, United Kingdom
- 2014 *Theaster Gates: The Black Monastic*, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto, Portugal [cat.]
- 2013 *Accumulated Affects of Migration*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois
Theaster Gates: 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; traveled to White Cube São Paulo, Brazil
13th Ballad, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 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, United Kingdom [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 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, Chicago, Illinois
Erogenous Wonder, An Installation, Salvage One, Chicago, Illinois

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2008 *Dinner Intervention, Culture Community #1 meets Culture Community #2*, Chicago, Illinois
Yamaguchi in Residence, Experimental Station, Chicago, Illinois

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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

2026 *Revelation: A Journey in Abstraction*, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C. [cat.]

2025 *A Kin to Clay*, Tinworks Art, Bozeman, Montana
Inequalities, The Triennale Milano International Exhibition, Milan, Italy
Apparitions, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
resonance, Anthony Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

2024 *Arte Povera*, Bourse de Commerce, Pinault Collection, Paris, France (2025)
Frieze Sculpture 2024, Frieze, Regent's Park, London, United Kingdom
Edges of Ailey, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York (2025) [cat.]
The Black Home as Public Art, The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture, Austin, Texas
Social Abstraction, Gagosian, Beverly Hills, California
Has My Place Forgotten Me?, Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker, Norway
Contemporary Expression and the World of Individual Expression, Ueshima Museum, Tokyo, Japan
The Vinyl Factory — Reverb, 180 Studios, London, United Kingdom [cat.]
When You See Me: Visibility in Contemporary Art/History, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas (2025)
Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics, The Institutum, Singapore

2023 *Forms*, Gagosian and Jeffrey Deitch, Miami, Florida
Chopped & Screwed, White Cube New York, New York
Everybody Talks About the Weather, Fondazione Prada, Venice
Sharjah Biennial 15, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

GRAY at 60, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois [cat.]; traveled to Richard Gray Gallery, New York, New York

Laboratory of the Future, Venice Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy

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- 2022 *Monochrome Multitudes*, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (2023)
- Citing Black Geographies*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois [cat.]; traveled to Richard Gray Gallery, New York, New York
- Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield*, South Carolina, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
- Aichi Triennale: Still Alive*, Japan
- A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration*, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi [cat.]; traveled to Baltimore Art Museum, Baltimore, Maryland (2023); California African American Museum, Los Angeles, California (2024); Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California (2024); and the Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois (2025)
- This Tender, Fragile Thing*, The School, Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, New York
- Working Thought: Art, Labor, and the American Economy*, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Hawai'i Triennial 2022*, Hawai'i Contemporary, Honolulu, Hawai'i
- Ruins and Fragments*, Gagosian, Athens, Greece
- From Moment to Movement: Picturing Protest in the Kramlich Collection*, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, California
- Reimagining: New Perspectives*, UBS Art Gallery, New York, New York
- A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence*, The Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
- FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art*, Cleveland, Ohio
- Les Souffles des Ancêtres (The Breath of the Ancestors)*, Congo Biennale, National Museum of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kinshasa, DRC
- 2021 *Social Works*, Gagosian, New York, New York
- The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia [cat.]; traveled to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas (2022)
- Promise, Witness, Remembrance*, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky
- An Ideal Landscape*, Gagosian, New York, New York
- Lost and Looking*, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, Indiana
- Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America*, New Museum, New York, New York
- 2020 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom (2021)
- Field of Dreams*, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York (2021)
- Transparent Things*, Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art, University of London, London, United Kingdom
- American Pastoral*, Gagosian, London, United Kingdom
- Blanc sur Blanc*, Gagosian, Paris, France

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- 2019 *Meridians*, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, Florida
Streams of Consciousness, Bamako Encounters, Bamako, Mali (2020)
Where the Oceans Meet, Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida (2020)
...and other such stories, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, Illinois (2020)
Mask: In Present-Day Art, Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau, Switzerland (2020)
An Exhibition for Notre-Dame, Gagosian, Paris, France
Continuing Abstraction, Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland
La Source, Fondation Carmignac, Paris, France
A Time Capsule Continued, Parkett Exhibition Space, Zurich, Switzerland
Five Ways In: Themes from the Collection, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2021)
Transitions and Transformations, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (2021)
- 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, United Kingdom
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)
Forests Clouds, 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, United Kingdom
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 and 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,

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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, United Kingdom

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, US 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 in 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 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 in 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, US 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.]
The Spirit of Utopia, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, England
Labour and Wait, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California [cat.]

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- 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 (2013); Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York, (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 DC (2013) [cat.]
12 Ballads for Huguenot House, dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany [cat.]
Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, 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, Houston, Texas
Whitney Biennial 2010, 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

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PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Aishti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon
- The Akeroyd Collection, London, England
- Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
- Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway
- Berezdivin Collection, Santurce, Puerto Rico
- Brooklyn Museum, New York, New York
- Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, New York
- Burger Collection, Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland
- Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, Florida
- Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine
- Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas
- DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois
- Fondation Carmignac, Hyères, France
- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong
- Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker, Norway
- Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- Long Museum, Shanghai and Chongqing, China
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California
- LUMA Arles, Arles, France
- Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, California
- Menil Collection, Houston, Texas
- Museum MACAN, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Miami, Florida
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
- The Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York
- Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, Netherlands
- 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, Miami, Florida
- Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Pinault Collection, Venice, Italy
- The Roberts Institute of Art, London, United Kingdom
- Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, China

- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California
- Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China
- Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York
- The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York
- TANK Shanghai, Shanghai, China
- Tate Modern, London, England
- Tia Collection, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- UBS Art Collection, London, England
- Ueshima Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- V&A East Storehouse, London, United Kingdom
- Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia
- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
- Yuz Museum Shanghai, Shanghai, China

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PROJECTS

- 2026 *To See What They Could See*, Obama Presidential Center, Chicago, Illinois
Han Cha, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, Illinois
Yunomi, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, Illinois
- 2025 *A Listening Space*, Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
The Land School, Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
- 2023 *A Monument to Listening*, commissioned by the Mellon Foundation, Tom Lee Memorial Park, Memphis, Tennessee
- 2021-22 *there is this We*, Sculpture Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2020 *Retreat at Currency Exchange Exchange Cafe*, 305 E 55th St., Chicago, Illinois
Where Black Power Lives, Indiana Toll Rd & Calumet Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana
- 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

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2016 *Black Artists Retreat*, Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

2015 *ArtHouse: A Social Kitchen*, Gary, Indiana
Black Artists Retreat, Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, Illinois

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2014 *Back of the House: 2014-2015*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Black Artists Retreat, Rebuild Foundation, 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, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; Traveled to Blaffer Art Museum (2013), University of Houston, Houston, Texas; SITE SANTA FE, Santa Fe, New Mexico (2014); Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2015)

2010 *Pushing the Archive, Art History and a Move's Uniform*, Armory Show, New York, New York

LECTURES

2026 *Artist Talk: Theaster Gates*, MACRO–Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome Italy

2024 *Undivided: Theaster Gates/Nari Ward*, Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, Arkansas
Black Vessel: Theaster Gates, National Building Museum, Washington, DC
Talk | Arthur Jafa and Theaster Gates, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

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, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

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2014– present Professor, Department of Visual Arts, Humanities Department, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

2010– present Chairman and Founder of Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

2008– 2018 Director, Arts and Public Life Initiative, Office of the Provost, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

2008– 2014 Affiliated Lecturer, Department of Humanities, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Lecturer, Department of Visual Arts, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

2006– 2008 Humanities Division, Office of the Dean, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

AWARDS

2026 Medalist: Established Artist, Art Basel Awards, Basel, Switzerland

2025 Fine Arts Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, New York, New York

2023 25th Vincent Scully Prize
Isamu Noguchi Award

2021 Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, Massachusetts
Honorary Fellowship, the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, United Kingdom

2020 Crystal Award, World Economic Forum, Geneva, Switzerland
Mary Miss Resident in Visual Art, American Academy, Rome, Italy

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, United Kingdom
J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development, Urban Land Institute, Washington, DC
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,

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Pennsylvania

Kurt Schwitters Prize, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany

- 2016 Harman/Eisner Artist in Residence Program, The Aspen Institute, Washington, DC
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, DC
- 2014 Community Impact Award, Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Distinguished Artists 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, New York, New York
Kippy Fellow, United States Artists, 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 Artist in Residence, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, Oregon
Arts/Industry Residency, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
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

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2009 Architecture Award, Graham Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Joyce Award, The Joyce Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

2008 Artadia Award, Artadia, New York, New York