

THEASTER GATES

1973 Born in Chicago
Lives and works in Chicago

Education

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

2018 *Black Madonna*, Sprengel Museum, Hannover
Black Madonna, Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland

2017 *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 Grey Gallery, Chicago
How to Build a House Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
Black Archive, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria
True Value, Fondazione Prada, Milan
Processions (performance residency), Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC

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 Kong
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, 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, Brunno 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
- 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

- 2018 *Travellers: Stepping into the Unknown*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
- 2017 *L'emozione dei COLORI nell'arte*, Castello di Rivoli, Turin
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, 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
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, Madrid, Spain, 2014
- 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, Manchester, UK; Samek Art Gallery, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Handwerker Gallery, Ithaca, New York; Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, 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, 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, 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)
- 2012 *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
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
Feats: 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

Awards

- 2018 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 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

2008 Artadia Artadia Award

Lectures

- 2018 *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

Projects and residencies

- 2018 *Johnson Publishing Story*, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago
 Scholar/Artist Residency, 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
- 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 - 2013 Residency, Creative Time, Haiti
- 2010-2011 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

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