

# WHITE CUBE

## THEASTER GATES

1973            Born in Chicago  
Lives and works in Chicago

### Education

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

2021            *Theaster Gates: A Clay Sermon*, Whitechapel Gallery, London  
*Theaster Gates: 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, United Kingdom  
*Black Image Corporation*, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, USA

2019            *Black Chapel*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany  
*Black Image Corporation*, PRADA Mode, 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
- 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
- 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  
*13<sup>th</sup> 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, 16<sup>th</sup> 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

- 2022 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 Off-Site, White Cube West Palm Beach  
*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
- 2020 *Theaster Gates, Jaume Plensa and Jim Dine*, Parrish Art Museum, Watermill, NY  
*Future Histories: Theaster Gates and Cauleen Smith*, SFMoMA, San Francisco  
*Ubuntu: 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 Kunsthhaus, Switzerland  
*Continuing Abstraction*, Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland  
Fundacion Banco Santander, Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, Spain  
*The Source*, Carmignac Foundation, Porquerolles Island, France
- 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*, 56<sup>th</sup> 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, 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)

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

## Selected awards

- 2021 Frederick Kiesler Prize for Architecture and the Arts  
American Academy of Arts and Letters  
Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, MassArt, Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- 2020 Crystal Award, World Economic Arts Forum
- 2018 Kurt Schwitters Prize  
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
- 2008 Artadia Artadia Award

## Lectures

- 2021 *Black Vessel*, Des Moines Art Center  
Race to Justice, UC Santa Barbara Art & Lecture Summit
- 2019 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 *LAND ART*, Colby College, Boston, Massachusetts



- 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, 16<sup>th</sup> 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
- 2008 *Why Make Art Now, Performance Studies*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
*Dave: Neo-Slave Narratives and Contemporary Black Identity — I made this Pot*, Performance Lecture, Paris

## Selected projects and residencies

- 2021 Sculpture Milwaukee 2021, co-curator with Michelle Grabner  
Royal Institute or British Architects Honorary Fellow
- 2020 Visiting Artist in Residence, the American Academy in Rome, Rome  
Obayashi Foundation, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 *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)*, 95<sup>th</sup> 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

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