

GAGOSIAN

Theaster Gates Biography

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

Education:

2006 M.S. Urban Planning, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.
1998 M.A., University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.
1996 B.S., Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2020 *Theaster Gates: Black Vessel.* Gagosian, 555 W. 24th Street, New York, NY.
The Black Image Corporation. Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA.
Theaster Gates and Colleen Smith: Future Histories. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA.

2019 *Black Chapel.* Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany.
Line Drawing for Shirt and Cloak. Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA.
Theaster Gates: Assembly Hall. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
Afro-Mingei. White Cube, Mason's Yard, London, England.
Facsimile Cabinet of Women Origin Stories. Colby Museum of Art, Waterville, ME.
Every Square Needs a Circle. Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL.
Theaster Gates: Selected Works. Gagosian, Paris, France.
Theaster Gates: Amalgam. Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France; traveled to Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, England.

2018 *The Black Image Corporation.* Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy.
Theaster Gates: Black Madonna. Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland and the Sprengel Museum Hanover, Hanover, Germany.
Processions: Prayer for the Black Madonna. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.

2017 *The Black Charismatic.* Gloria Cultural Arena, Helsinki, Finland.
Theaster Gates: Tarry Skies and Psalms for Now. White Cube, Hong Kong.
Processions: Plantation Lullabies. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
Theaster Gates: The Minor Arts. National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Theaster Gates: But To Be a Poor Race. Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA.

2016 *Theaster Gates: Heavy Sketches.* Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL.
Processions: The Runners. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
Theaster Gates: True Value. Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy.
Theaster Gates: How to Build a House Museum. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada.
Theaster Gates: Black Archive. Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria.

2015 *Sanctum.* Produced by Situations. Temple Church, Bristol, England.

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- 2014 *Freedom of Assembly*. White Cube Bermondsey, London, England.
Theaster Gates: The Black Monastic. Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal.
- 2013 *Accumulated Effects of Migration*. Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL.
A Way of Working. The Vera List Center for Arts and Politics, New York, NY.
My Back, My Wheel and My Will. White Cube, Hong Kong; White Cube, São Paulo, Brazil.
13th Ballad. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.
To Make the Thing that Makes the Things. Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2012 *Soul Manufacturing Corporation*. Locust Projects, Miami, FL.
My Labor Is My Protest. White Cube, Bermondsey, London, England.
- 2011 *Theaster Gates: The Listening Room*. Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA.
An Epitaph for Civil Rights. Museum of Contemporary Arts, Los Angeles, CA.
Theaster Gates. Arts Club London, London, England.
An Epitaph for Civil Rights and Other Domesticated Structures. Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL.
- 2010 *To Speculate Darkly: Theaster Gates and Dave, the Slave Potter*. Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI.
Bones Dry and Other Parables From the North. Bruno David Gallery and the Pulitzer Museum of Art, St. Louis, MO.
- 2009 *On Another Note: Extractions from the Chicago Jazz Archive Collection*. DOVA Temporary, Chicago, IL.
Holiness in Three Parts. Boots Contemporary Art Space, St. Louis, MO.
Temple Exercises. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.
Erogenous Wonder, An Installation. Salvage One, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 *Yamaguchi in Residence*. Experimental Station, Chicago, IL.
Dinner Intervention: Culture Community #1 meets Culture Community #2. Chicago, IL.
- 2007 *Uprising, Voice*. Violin and Cello, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL.
Plate Convergence. Hyde Art Park Center, Chicago, IL.
Recreation of the Candy "Stow". Chicago, IL.
Life After Qualls. South Side Community Arts Center, Chicago, IL.
Un-housed, Gentrification and the constant need for Space. Chicago, IL.
- 2005 *Rachmaninov and the Slave Spiritual*. Piano, Violin and Voice, Ames, IA.
The American Negro: Too good to be True. St. George Cathedral, Capetown, South Africa.
People of the Mud: An exhibition of 15 ceramic artists. Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, IL.
Mississippi Houses. Inax Cermaic Museum, Tokoname, Japan.
Facing Fuji: 10 Sculptors in Japan. Tokoname Museum of Ceramic History, Tokoname, Japan.
Theaster Gates. Yakimono Ceramics Exhibition, Tokoname, Japan.

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2020 *Blanc sur Blanc*. Gagosian, Paris, France.
American Pastoral. Gagosian, Britannia Street, London, England.
- 2019 *5 Ways In: Themes from the Collection*. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
An Exhibition for Notre Dame. Gagosian, Paris, France.

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- 2018 *Continuing Abstraction* Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland.
MONUMENTality. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA.
Days of Reading. Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, Canada.
OVERRIDE: A Billboard Project. EXPO Chicago, Chicago, IL.
New Materialism. Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden.
Remembering Tomorrow: Artworks and Archives. White Cube, Hong Kong.
She sees the shadows. MOSTYN contemporary art gallery, Mostyn, Wales.
Memory Palace. White Cube Mason's Yard, London, England.
Afro-Atlantic Histories. Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil.
Jason Moran. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
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, LA.
7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art. New Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia.
Dimensions of Black. Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, CA.
(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, NY.
The Legacy of Lynching: Confronting Racial Terror in America. Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY.
Simple Passion, Complex Vision: the Darryl Atwell Collection. Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC.
Urban Planning: Contemporary Art and the City 1967-2017. Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis, St. Louis, MO.
- 2016 *Colori*. Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy.
Question the Wall Itself. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
Whoville. The Peninsula Chicago, Chicago, IL.
On Space and Place: Contemporary Art from Chicago, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Vancouver. DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL.
Southern Accent: Seeking the American South in Contemporary Art. Nasher Museum of Art, Dunham, NC; traveled to Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY.
Good Dreams, Bad Dreams – American Mythologies. Aishti Foundation, Antelias, Lebanon.
Seeing Round Corners. Turner Contemporary, Margate, England.
Non Fiction. The Underground Museum, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 *Highlights of the Collection II*. Berezdivin Collection, Espacio 1414, Santurce, Puerto Rico.
SALTWATER: A Theory of Thought Forms. 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey.
All the World's Futures. Venice Biennale, Corderie, Venice, Italy.
Contemporary Conversations. U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada.
- 2014 *Impulse, Reason, Sense, Conflict, Abstract Art from the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros collection*. CIFO Art Space, Miami, FL.
Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art. Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY.
Artes Mundi 6. National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales.
Prospect 3: Notes for Now. New Orleans, LA.

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- Experiments with the Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence.* The Menil Collection, Houston, TX; traveled to International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Genève, Switzerland.
- Homeland [IN] Security: Vanishing Dreams.* Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, NY.
- Made by Brazilians... Creative Invasion.* Cidade Matarazzo, São Paulo, Brazil.
- When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South.* Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY; traveled to NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA.
- More Material.* Salon 94, New York, NY.
- Living in the Material World: Materiality in Contemporary Art.* Kunstmuseum Krefeld, Krefeld, Germany; traveled to Galerie im Taxispalais Innsbruck, Austria.
- Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliott and Kimberly Perry Collection.* Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI.
- Contemporary Conversations.* U.S. Embassy Madrid, Madrid, Spain.
- 2013 *We'll Make Out Better than Okay.* The Charlotte Street Foundation la Esquina Gallery, Kansas City, MO.
- Etched in Collective History.* Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL.
- The Spirit of Utopia.* Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, England.
- Labour and Wait.* Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA.
- Sculpture in the Close.* Jesus College, Cambridge, MA.
- BNKUDRWTR.* Art Basel Unlimited 2013, Basel, Switzerland.
- Transforming the Known: Works from The Bert Kreuk Collection.* Gemeente Museum, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Prima Materia.* Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy.
- Do It.* Independent Curators International, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, NY; traveled to Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH; tranzit, Budapest, Hungary; MU artspace, Eindhoven, Netherlands; Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, England; Samek Art Gallery, Lewisburg, PA; Handwerker Gallery, Ithaca, NY; Stacion-Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Prishtina, Kosovo; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, UT; Musée de la danse, Rennes, France; Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia; The Episcopal Academy, Newtown Square, PA; Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa; the Galleries at Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, PA; Denler Art Gallery, Saint Paul, MN; Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia; KKW Kunst Kraft Werk, Leipzig, Germany; Napa Valley Museum, Yountville, CA; Kunsthall Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Numu – El Nuevo Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Kunsthall Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark; Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH; Tallina Kunstihoone, Tallinn, Estonia; Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, CA; galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal, Québec, Canada; Frac des pays de la Loire/HAB Galerie, Nantes, France; Art Museum of the University of Memphis, Memphis, TN; Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, TX; Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ.
- 2012 *My Labor Is My Protest.* White Cube Bermondsey, London, England.
- Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art.* Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX; traveled to Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY; Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
- The Sound of Painting.* Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, Turin, Italy.

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- IN/SITU: Temporary Landmarks and Moving Situations.* EXPO Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL.
- Beyond Beauty.* TWIG Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.
- Storytelling as Craft; Chapter One.* Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY.
- 40 Under 40.* Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
- 12 Ballads for Huguenot House.* dOCUMENTA 13, Kassel, Germany.
- Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art.* Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, IL; traveled to the Blaffner Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, TX; SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM; Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2011 *Social Structures.* Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Sun Valley, ID.
- The North Wind and the Sun.* Diverseworks, Houston, TX.
- Instruments of Resurrection.* Roots & Culture, Chicago, IL.
- 2010 *Grain of Emptiness: Buddhism Inspired Contemporary Art.* Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY.
- Gestures of Resistance.* Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR.
- Hand + Made Contemporary: Just a Closer Walk With Thee, Toward a Legendary Black Clay Superhero.* Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX.
- 2010 Whitney Biennial.* Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.
- 2009 *Shoe Shine Stands and other archetypal structures of Blackness.* Nada Art Fair, Miami, FL.
- 2008 *Heartland.* Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands; traveled to Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- Branded Alongside the Cabinet of Curiosities.* Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI.
- Tea Shacks, Collard Greens and the Preservation of Soul.* Center for the Proliferation of Afro-Asian Artifacts, Chicago, IL.
- Contemporary Response to the Plantation Cabinet, circa 1782.* Chipstone Foundation Estate, Milwaukee, WI.

Special Projects:

- 2019 *Black Artists Retreat 2019: Sonic Imagination.* Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY.
- 2018 *A Johnson Publishing Story.* Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 *Chicago Architecture Biennial.* Chicago, IL.
- Black Artists Retreat.* Chicago, IL.
- 2014 *Back of the House: 2014-2015.* School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- Retreat.* Valerie Carberry Gallery and Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL.
- Black Artists Retreat.* Chicago, IL.
- 2013 *Black Artists Retreat.* Chicago, IL.
- 2012 *Creative Time Global Residency.* Haiti.
- 12 Ballads for Huguenot House.* dOCUMENTA 13, Kassel, Germany.
- Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art.* Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, IL; Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, TX; SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM; Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2010 *Artadia New York Artist Residency.* International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York, NY.
- Gestures of Resistance.* Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR.
- Hand + Made Contemporary: Just a Closer Walk With Thee, Toward a Legendary Black Superhero.* Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX.

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To Speculate Darkly: Theaster Gates and Dave, the Slave Potter. Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI.
Pushing the Archive, Art History and a Mover's Uniform. Armory Show, New York, NY.
Theaster Gates: Arts/Industry Residency, Pottery. John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Chicago, IL.

Screenings:

2017 *The Black Charismatic.* Finnkino Tennispalatsi, Helsinki, Finland.
2016 *Gone are the Days of Shelter and Martyr.* Rosebud, Waltham, MA.
2015 *Gone are the Days of Shelter and Martyr.* Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.

Recordings:

2018 *Black Madonna.* Theaster Gates and the Black Monks of Mississippi. Chicago: Black Madonna Press/The Vinyl Factory.

Selected Performances:

2020 *Theaster Gates: Whoa de Whoa.* Grey Sound Sessions, online.
2017 *Theaster Gates: transmissions spirituelles du gospel au Blues.* Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.
Processions: Plantation Lullabies. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
The Black Charismatic Concert. Rock Church, Helsinki, Finland.
Jason Moran and Theaster Gates: Looks of a Lot. Eisenhower Theater, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
2016 *Processions: The Runners.* Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
A Cultural Revival: Theaster Gates. Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH.
Bookbinding and A cappella. Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria.
2015 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden 40th Anniversary Gala.
See, Sit, Sup, Sip, Sing: Holding Court. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA.
2014 *Theaster Gates: See, Sit, Sup, Sip, Sing: Holding Court.* Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY.
The Black Monastic: Theaster Gates and the Black Monks of Mississippi. Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal.
2013 *Tis So Sweet Or I Need Sugar Lawd.* Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL.
2012 *Theaster Gates & the Black Monks of Mississippi perform Dave the Potter.* Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO.
red, black and green: a blues (rbGb). Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; traveled to Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center at University of Houston, Houston, TX; Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale, AZ; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL; Bates College, Lewiston, ME; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA; Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas with Seattle Center, Seattle, WA.
See, Sit, Sup, Sip, Sing: Holding Court. Armory Show, New York, NY.

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- 2010 *Just a Closer with Thee* and *Toward a Legendary Black Clay Superhero*. Houston Museum of African American Culture, Houston, TX.
Gestures of Resistance. Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR.
Pushing the Archive, Art History Archive and a Mover's Uniform. The Armory Show, New York, NY.
- 2009 *Holiness in 3 Parts*. Boots Contemporary Gallery, St. Louis, MO.
Black Monks in Mississippi. South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, IL.
Temple Exercises performance with Black Monks of Mississippi. Little Black Pearl, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 *Black Monks and the Gospel of Black*. Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands.
Black Monks of Mississippi, If You See Jesus Tell him Where I Am. Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL.
- 2007 *Storied Toy: The Emotional and Imaginative Relationship Between a Boy and His Toys (plus a few other things)*. UNI Gallery of Art, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.

Awards:

- 2020 Crystal Award, World Economic Forum, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
- 2019 Visions of the City. Obayashi Foundation, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2018 J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development, Urban Land Institute, Washington, D.C.
Nasher Prize, The Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, TX.
Scholar/Artist in Residence. Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2017 Award in Architecture, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY.
Edmund N. Bacon Award, Center for Architecture and Design, Philadelphia, PA.
Kurt Schwitters Prize, Sprengel Museum Hanover, Hanover, Germany.
- 2016 Harman-Eisner Artist in Residence Program, The Aspen Institute, Aspen, CO.
Visual Arts and Performing Arts – Criticism and Practice, American Academy of Arts & Sciences, Cambridge, MA.
Richman Distinguished Fellowship in Public Life, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
- 2015 Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award for Social Progress, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.
Kleo Barrett Angel Award, KLEO Center, Chicago, IL.
Artes Mundi 6, Cardiff, Wales.
- 2014 Honorary Doctorate, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2013 Chicago Vision Award for Programming, The Urban Land Institute, Washington, D.C.
Connecting Communities through the Arts Award, South East Chicago Commission, Chicago, IL.
Award for Excellence, Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation, Madison, WI.
- 2012 The Lawrence Prize, Jacob and Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence, Seattle Art Museum, WA.
Prize for Art and Politics, New School Vera List, New York, NY.
- 2010 Loeb Fellowship, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, MA.
New York Residency, Artadia, New York, NY.
Art/Industry Residency, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI.
Artist in Residence, Museum of Contemporary Craft, New York, NY.
- 2009 Joyce Award, The Joyce Foundation, Chicago, IL.
Architecture Award, Graham Foundation, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 Artadia Award, Brooklyn, NY.

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Public Collections:

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada.
Berezdivin Collection, Santurce, Puerto Rico.
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY.
Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, FL.
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX.
Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland.
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA.
Menil Collection, Houston, TX.
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.
Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, FL.
National Gallery of Canada, Ontario, Canada.
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL.
NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale, FL.
Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL.
Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK.
Pinault Collection, Venice, Italy.
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA.
Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China.
Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL.
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.
Tate Modern, London, England.
University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI.
Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, VA.
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.