

REGEN PROJECTS

THEASTER GATES

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Chicago, IL, 1973.

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

Education: M.S. Urban Planning, Ceramics, Religious Studies, Iowa State University, 2006
M.A. Fine Arts, Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, 1998
B.S. Urban Planning, Ceramics, Iowa State University, 1996

Academic and Professional Positions:

2018 – present Distinguished Visiting Artist and Director of Artist Initiatives, Lunder Institute for American Art, Colby Museum of Art, Colby College, Waterville, ME

2018 – present Senior Advisor for Cultural Innovation and Advisor to the Dean of Harris Public Policy, The University of Chicago, IL

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

2009 – present Chairman and Founder of The Rebuild Foundation, NFP, Chicago, IL

- Archive House, Chicago, IL
- Black Cinema House, Chicago, IL
- Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative, Chicago, IL
- Listening House, Chicago, IL
- Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, IL

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

- Arts Incubator
- Place Lab

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

2008 – 2014 Lecturer, Department of Visual Arts; Affiliated Lecturer, Department of Humanities, University of Chicago, IL

Current Board Memberships:

Cultural Advisory Council, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

Graham Foundation

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Hyde Park Art Center

Seminary Co-op

South Chicago Arts Center

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Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 2022 “Vestment,” Gagosian, New York, NY, November 12 – December 23, 2022
“Young Lords and Their Traces,” New Museum, New York, NY, November 10, 2022 – February 5, 2023; catalogue
“Ashen,” Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland, June 13 – July 30, 2022
“Serpentine Pavilion 2022: Black Chapel by Theaster Gates,” Serpentine Galleries, London, UK, June 10 – October 16, 2022
“No More Dark Days,” White Cube, West Palm Beach, FL, March 5 – April 16, 2022
- 2021 “Theaster Gates: A Clay Sermon,” Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK, September 29, 2021 – January 9, 2022; catalogue
“Oh, The Wind Oh, The Wind,” White Cube, Mason’s Yard, London, UK, September 17 – October 30, 2021
“How to Sell Hardware,” GRAY Warehouse, Chicago, IL, May 28 – July 31, 2021
“Theaster Gates: Light of Progress, Artspace, New Haven, CT, March 26 – June 26, 2021
“Theaster Gates: Bad Neon, TANK Shanghai, Shanghai, China, March 19 – August 29, 2021
“China Cabinet,” Prada Rong Zhai, Shanghai, China, March 11 – May 7, 2021
- 2020 “Theaster Gates: Breathing,” Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL, November 7, 2020 – May 31, 2021
“Future Histories: Theaster Gates and Cauleen Smith,” San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, October 17, 2020 – July 18, 2021
“Theaster Gates: Black Vessel,” Gagosian, New York, NY, October 10 – December 19, 2020
“The Black Image Corporation,” Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA, January 28 – December 5, 2020
- 2019 “Theaster Gates: Black Chapel,” Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, October 25, 2019 – August 16, 2020; catalogue
“The Black Image Corporation,” 180 The Strand, London, UK, October 4 – 27, 2019
“Theaster Gates: Line Drawing for Shirt and Cloak,” Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA, September 14 – November 2, 2019
“Theaster Gates: Assembly Hall,” Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, September 7, 2019 – January 12, 2020
“Theaster Gates: Afro-Mingei,” White Cube, Mason’s Yard, London, UK, May 24 – June 22, 2019
“The Black Image Corporation,” Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany, April 25 – July 28, 2019
“Theaster Gates: Every Square Needs a Circle,” Richard Gray Gallery, Gray Warehouse, Chicago, IL, April 4 – June 29, 2019
“Theaster Gates: Facsimile Cabinet of Women Origin Stories,” Colby Museum of Art, Waterville, ME, March 12 – September 8, 2019
“Theaster Gates: Amalgam,” Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, February 20 – May 12, 2019; travels to Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK, December 13, 2019 – May 3, 2020
“Theaster Gates: Selected Works,” Gagosian, Paris, France, February 12 – March 23, 2019

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- 2018 “The Black Image Corporation,” Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy, September 20, 2018 – January 14, 2019; catalogue
“Theaster Gates: Black Madonna,” Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland, June 9 – October 21, 2018; traveled to Sprengel Museum Hannover, Hannover, Germany, June 23 – September 9, 2018; catalogue
“2018 Nasher Prize Laureate: Theaster Gates,” Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, TX, February 17 – April 28, 2018
- 2017 “IHME project 2017: The Black Charismatic,” Helsinki, Finland, April 6 – 29, 2017
“Theaster Gates: Tarry Skies and Psalms for Now,” White Cube, Hong Kong, China, March 21 – May 20, 2017
“Theaster Gates: The Minor Arts,” National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., March 5 – September 4, 2017
“Theaster Gates: But To Be A Poor Race,” Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA, January 14 – February 25, 2017
- 2016 “Theaster Gates: Heavy Sketches,” Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL, September 30 – November 20, 2016
“Theaster Gates: How to Build a House Museum,” Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada, July 21 – October 30, 2016
“Theaster Gates: True Value,” Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy, July 7 – September 25, 2016; catalogue
“Theaster Gates: Black Archive,” Kunsthhaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria, April 23 – June 26, 2016; catalogue
- 2015 “Sanctum,” produced by Situations, Temple Church, Bristol, UK, October 29 – November 11, 2015
“Freedom of Assembly,” White Cube, Bermondsey, London, UK, April 29 – July 5, 2015
- 2014 “Theaster Gates: The Black Monastic,” Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto, Portugal, September 7 – 19, 2014
- 2013 “Accumulated Effects of Migration,” Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL, September 20 – November 9, 2013
“A Way of Working,” The Vera List Center for Arts and Politics, New York, NY, September 18 – October 5, 2013
“My Back, My Wheel and My Will,” White Cube, Hong Kong, China, September 13 – November 2, 2013
“My Back, My Wheel and My Will,” White Cube, São Paulo, Brazil, September 3 – November 2, 2013
“13th Ballad,” Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, May 18 – October 6, 2013
“To Make the Thing that Makes the Things,” Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA, January 21 – spring 2013
- 2012 “Soul Manufacturing Corporation,” Locust Projects, Miami, FL, November 10 – December 21, 2012
“My Labor Is My Protest,” White Cube, Bermondsey, London, UK, September 7 – November 11, 2012; catalogue

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- 2011 “Theaster Gates: The Listening Room,” Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, December 9, 2011 – July 1, 2012
“An Epitaph for Civil Rights,” Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, October 1, 2011 – February 13, 2012
“Theaster Gates,” Arts Club London, London, UK, September 12, 2011 – January 8, 2012
“An Epitaph for Civil Rights and Other Domesticated Structures,” Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL, April 30 – July 11, 2011
- 2010 “To Speculate Darkly: Theaster Gates and Dave, the Slave Potter,” Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee WI, April 16 – August 1, 2010; catalogue
“Bones Dry and Other Parables From the North,” Bruno David Gallery and the Pulitzer Museum of Art, St. Louis, MO, May 15 – June 5, 2010; catalogue
- 2009 “On Another Note: Extractions from the Chicago Jazz Archive Collection,” DOVA Temporary, Chicago, IL, September 26 – October 17, 2009
“Holiness in Three Parts,” Boots Contemporary Art Space, St. Louis, MO, September 18 – October 16, 2009
“Temple Exercises,” Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, January 6 – February 1, 2009
“Erogenous Wonder, An Installation,” Salvage One, Chicago, IL, 2009
- 2008 “Yamaguchi in Residence,” Experimental Station, one year, ongoing lifestyle performance, Chicago, IL, 2008
“Dinner Intervention, Culture Community #1 meets Culture Community #2,” Chicago, IL, 2008
- 2007 “Uprising, Voice,” Violin and Cello, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL, 2007
“Plate Convergence,” Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL, September 3 – November 11, 2007
Recreation of the Candy “Stow,” Acquisition and renovation of a small South Side commercial building for dinner interventions; recycled materials, local labor, Chicago, IL, 2007
“Life After Qualls,” African American Artists Respond to the works of Michael Qualls. Performance and sculpture at South Side Community Arts Center, Chicago, IL
“Un-housed, Gentrification and the constant need for Space,” Architecture and design conference, Chicago, IL, 2007
- 2005 “Rachmaninov and the Slave Spiritual,” Piano, Violin and Voice, Ames, IA, 2005
“The American Negro; Too good to be True,” St. George Cathedral, Capetown, South Africa, 2005
“People of the Mud, An exhibition of 15 ceramic artists,” Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, IL, 2005
“Mississippi Houses,” Inax Ceramic Museum, Tokoname, Japan, 2005
“Facing Fuji: 10 Sculptors in Japan,” Tokoname Museum of Ceramic History, Tokoname, Japan, 2005
“Theaster Gates,” Yakimono Ceramics Exhibition, Tokoname, Japan, 2005

Selected Group Exhibitions:

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- 2022 “Black Abstractionists: From Then ‘til Now,” Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, TX, October 8, 2022 – January 29, 2023
- “Monochrome Multitudes,” Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL, September 22, 2022 – January 8, 2023
- “Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina,” The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, September 9, 2022 – February 5, 2023
- “Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898–1971,” Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles, CA, August 21, 2022 – July 16, 2023; travels to the Detroit Institute of Arts Museum (DIA), Detroit, MI, February 4, 2023 – June 23, 2024; catalogue
- “Still Alive,” AICHI Triennale, Maruri-Toukan, Tokoname, Japan, July 30 – October 10, 2022
- “Oh, Gods of Dust and Rainbows,” FRONT International 2022, Akron, OH, July 16 – October 2, 2022
- “Hooking Up: Meet the Collection,” Cleve Carney Museum of Art, Glen Ellyn, IL, June 4 – August 7, 2022
- “HOUSE PARTY: R.S.V.P. B.Y.O.B.,” Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem, NC, April 22 – July 16, 2022
- “A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration” Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS, April 9 – September 11, 2022; travels to Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD, October 30, 2022 – January 29, 2023
- “A Lasting Truth is Change,” Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands, April 2 – July 22, 2022; catalogue
- “Ghost of Empires,” Ben Brown Fine Arts, Hong Kong, China, March 22 – May 14, 2022; travels to Ben Brown Fine Arts, London, UK, Fall 2022
- “Working Thought: Art, Labor, and the American Economy,” Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, March 5 – June 26, 2022
- “Pacific Century – E Ho‘omau no Moananuiākea,” Hawaii Triennial 2022, Hawaii Contemporary, Honolulu, HI, February 18, 2022 – May 8, 2022; catalogue
- “This Tender, Fragile Thing,” Jack Shainman Gallery, The School, Kinderhook, NY, January 15 – April 30, 2022
- 2021 “Flames: The Age of Ceramics,” Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France, October 15, 2021 – February 6, 2022
- “Congo Biennale 2021: The Breath Of The Ancestors,” Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, September 10 – October 24, 2021
- “INHERENT FORM,” Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA, July 28 – August 1, 2021
- “Social Works,” Gagosian, New York, NY, June 24 – September 11, 2021
- “Selections: Gallery Artists,” Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA, June 5 – July 15, 2021
- “Stop Painting,” Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy, May 22 – November 21, 2021
- “The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse,” Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA, May 22 – September 6, 2021
- “Promise, Witness, Remembrance,” Speed Museum, Louisville, KY, April 7 – June 6, 2021
- “Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America,” New Museum, New York, NY, February 16 – June 6, 2021; catalogue
- “Lost and Looking,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN, January 30 – June 5, 2021

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- 2020 “Summer Exhibition,” Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK, October 6, 2020 – January 3, 2021
- “UBUNTU: Five rooms from the Harry David Art Collection,” National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens, Athens, Greece, September 22, 2020 – March 18, 2021
- “Field of Dreams,” Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY, August 20, 2020 – August 31, 2021
- “Come Out!,” Kistefos Museet, Jevnaker, Norway, May 24 – October 11, 2020
- “Encounter – K11 Musea x White Cube,” K11 Musea, Hong Kong, China, March 17 – May 31, 2020
- “Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago,” Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 29 – September 13, 2020; catalogue
- “American Pastoral,” Gagosian, London, UK, January 23 – March 14, 2020
- “Blanc sur Blanc,” Gagosian, Paris, France, January 16 – March 7, 2020
- 2019 “Transitions and Transformations,” NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL, November 17, 2019 – January 2021
- “...and other such stories,” 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, IL, September 19, 2019 – January 5, 2020
- “MASK. In Present-Day Art,” Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau, Switzerland, September 1, 2019 – January 5, 2020
- “We are many: experiments on collectivity,” Sao Paulo Pinacoteca, São Paulo, Brazil, August 10 – October 28, 2019
- “Icons of Style: A Century of Fashion Photography,” The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, June 23 – September 22, 2019
- “An Exhibition for Notre-Dame,” Gagosian, Paris, France, June 11 – July 27, 2019
- “Continuing Abstraction,” Gagosian, Basel, Switzerland, June 10 – 16, 2019; catalogue
- “The Source,” Fondation Carmignac, Paris, France, April 13 – November 3, 2019
- “There will never be a door. You are inside. Works from the Coleção Teixeira de Freitas,” Fundación Banco Santander, Madrid, Spain, February 26 – June 9, 2019; catalogue
- “A Time Capsule Continued,” Parkett Exhibition Space, Zurich, Switzerland, February 23 – July 20, 2019
- 2018 “MONUMENTality,” Getty Research Institute, Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA, December 4, 2018 – April 21, 2019
- “Days of Reading,” Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, Canada, September 29 – December 30, 2018
- “OVERRIDE | A Billboard Project,” EXPO Chicago, 515 W. Congress Pkwy, Chicago, IL, September 17 – October 7, 2018
- “New Materialism,” Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden, September 4 – November 11, 2018
- “Remembering Tomorrow: Artworks and Archives,” White Cube, Hong Kong, China, July 18 – August 25, 2018
- “She sees the shadows,” organized with David Roberts Art Foundation, MOSTYN, Wales, UK, July 14 – November 4, 2018
- “Memory Palace,” White Cube, London, UK, July 11 – September 15, 2018
- “Afro-Atlantic Histories,” Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil, June 28 – October 21, 2018; catalogue

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- “Jason Moran,” Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, April 25 – August 25, 2018; traveled to Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA, September 19, 2018 – January 21, 2019; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH, June 1 – August 11, 2019; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, September 20, 2019 – January 5, 2020; catalogue
- “Travelers: Stepping into the Unknown,” The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan, January 21 – May 6, 2018
- 2017 “Solidary & Solitary: The Pamela J. Joyner & Alfred J. Giuffrida Collection,” Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA, September 30, 2017 – January 21, 2018
- “7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art,” New Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia, September 19, 2017 – January 18, 2018
- “Dimensions of Black,” Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, CA, September 17 – December 28, 2017
- “Cosmopolis #1,” Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, October 18 – December 18, 2017
- “(X) A Fantasy,” David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK, September 8 – October 7, 2017
- “An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney’s Collection, 1940 – 2017,” Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, August 18, 2017 – August 27, 2018
- “The Legacy of Lynching: Confronting Racial Terror in America,” Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, July 26 – September 3, 2017
- “Simple Passion, Complex Vision: the Darryl Atwell Collection,” Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC, July 22, 2017 – January 22, 2018
- “Urban Planning: Contemporary Art and the City 1967 – 2017,” Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, May 5 – August 13, 2017
- “Colori,” Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy, March 14 – July 23, 2017
- 2016 “Question the Wall Itself,” Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, November 20, 2016 – May 21, 2017; catalogue
- “Whoville,” The Peninsula Chicago, Chicago, IL, September 22 – 25, 2016
- “On Space and Place: Contemporary Art from Chicago, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Vancouver,” DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL, September 15 – December 18, 2016
- “Southern Accent: Seeking the American South in Contemporary Art,” Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, NC, September 1, 2016 – January 8, 2017; traveled to Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY, April 29 – August 20, 2017; catalogue
- “Good Dreams, Bad Dreams - American Mythologies,” Aishti Foundation, Antelias, Lebanon, June 23, 2016 – April 1, 2017; catalogue
- “Seeing Round Corners,” Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK, May 21 - September 25, 2016
- “You go to my head,” Galerie Templon, Brussels, Belgium, April 20 – May 28, 2016
- “Non Fiction,” The Underground Museum, Los Angeles, CA, March 20, 2016 – March 1, 2017

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- 2015 “SALTWATER: A Theory of Thought Forms,” 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey, September 5 – November 1, 2015; catalogue
“All the World’s Futures,” Venice Biennale, Corderie, Venice, Italy, May 9 – November 22, 2015; catalogue
“Contemporary Conversations,” U.S. Embassy Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, 2015
- 2014 “Highlights of the Collection II,” Berezdivin Collection, Espacio 1414, Santurce, Puerto Rico, December 10, 2014 – September 30, 2015
“Impulse, Reason, Sense, Conflict. Abstract Art from the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros collection,” CIFO Art Space, Miami, FL, December 3, 2014 – March 29, 2015; catalogue
“Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art,” Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY, November 13, 2014 – March 8, 2015; catalogue
“Artes Mundi 6,” National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, UK, October 24, 2014 – February 22, 2015
“Prospect 3: Notes for Now,” New Orleans, LA, October 25, 2014 – January 25, 2015; catalogue
“Experiments with the Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence,” The Menil Collection, Houston, TX, October 3, 2014 – February 1, 2015; traveled to International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Genève, Switzerland, April 15, 2015 – January 3, 2016; catalogue
“Homeland [IN] Security: Vanishing Dreams,” Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, NY, September 7 – November 16, 2014
“Made by Brazilians...Creative Invasion,” Cidade Matarazzo, Sao Paulo, Brazil, September 6 – October 10, 2014; catalogue
“When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South,” Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY, March 27 – June 29, 2014; traveled to NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL, August 3 – October 12, 2014; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA, February 4 – May 10, 2015; catalogue
“More Material,” Salon 94, New York, NY, June 26 – August 1, 2014
“Living in the Material World: Materiality in Contemporary Art,” Kunstmuseum Krefeld, Krefeld, Germany, April 6 – August 10, 2014; traveled to Galerie im Taxispalais Innsbruck, Austria, December 6, 2014 – February 15, 2015; catalogue
“Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliott and Kimberly Perry Collection,” Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI, January 26 – April 13, 2014; catalogue
“Contemporary Conversations,” U.S. Embassy Madrid, Madrid, Spain, 2014
- 2013 “We’ll Make Out Better than Okay,” The Charlotte Street Foundation la Esquina Gallery, Kansas City, MO, October 25 – December 20, 2013
“Etched in Collective History,” Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, August 18 – November 17, 2013
“The Spirit of Utopia,” Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK, July 4 – September 5, 2013
“Labour and Wait,” Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA, July 2 – September 22, 2013; catalogue
“Sculpture in the Close,” Jesus College, Cambridge, MA, June 24 – September 22, 2013
“BNKUDRWTR,” Art Basel Unlimited 2013, Basel, Switzerland, June 13 – 16, 2013
“Transforming the Known: Works from The Bert Kreuk Collection,” Gemeente Museum, The Hague, Netherlands, June 8 – September 24, 2013; catalogue

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- “Prima Materia,” Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy, May 30, 2013 – February 15, 2015; catalogue
- “Do It,” curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, organized by Independent Curators International (ICI), Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, NY, May 12 – July 7, 2013; traveled to Gund Gallery at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, May 12 – August 25, 2013; tranzit, Budapest, Hungary, May 17 – May 19, 2013; MU artspace, Eindhoven, Netherlands, May 17 – July 19, 2013; Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK, July 5 – September 22, 2013; Samek Art Gallery, Lewisburg, PA, September 23 – December 12, 2013; Handwerker Gallery, Ithaca, NY, September 30 – November 1, 2013; Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Prishtina, Kosovo, November 15, 2013 – January 14, 2014; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, UT, January 17 – May 31, 2014; Musée de la danse, Rennes, France, April 1 – May 17, 2014; Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia, May 1 – July 6, 2014; The Episcopal Academy, Newtown Square, PA, September 3, 2014 – April 3, 2015; Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, September 4 – 13, 2014; The Galleries at Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, PA, September 13 – December 6, 2014; Denler Art Gallery, Saint Paul, MN, October 16 – November 13, 2014; Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia, February 13 – April 24, 2015; KKW Kunst Kraft Werk, Leipzig, Germany, May 22 – July 9, 2015; Napa Valley Museum, Yountville, CA, June 19 – August 30, 2015; Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands, July 4 – August 30, 2015; Numu – El Nuevo Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Guatemala City, Guatemala, August 8 – October 18, 2015; Kunsthal Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark, October 2 – November 29, 2015; Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, October 21 – November 19, 2015; Tallina Kunstihoone, Tallinn, Estonia, November 24, 2015 – January 10, 2016; Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, CA, January 9 – March 20, 2016; Galerie de l’UQAM, Montréal, Québec, Canada, January 14 – February 20, 2016; Galerija Umjetnina, Split, Croatia, January 30 – December 31, 2016; Frac des pays de la Loire/HAB Galerie, Nantes, France, February 5 – April 17, 2016; Art Museum of the University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, March 1 – May 10, 2016; Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, TX, March 3 – May 8, 2016; Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS, April 23 – August 28, 2016; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ, September 9, 2016 – January 1, 2017; catalogue
- 2012 “Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art,” Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX, November 17, 2012 – February 16, 2013; traveled to Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY, September 10 – December 7, 2013; Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY, November 14, 2013 – March 9, 2014; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, July 24, 2014 – January 4, 2015; catalogue
- “The Sound of Painting,” Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, Turin, Italy, November 10 – 30, 2012; catalogue
- “IN/SITU: Temporary Landmarks and Moving Situations,” EXPO CHICAGO, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL, September 20 – 23, 2012
- “Beyond Beauty,” TWIG Gallery, Brussels, Belgium, September 8 – October 20, 2012
- “Storytelling as Craft; Chapter One,” Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY, September 8 – November 11, 2012

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- “40 Under 40,” Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C., July 20, 2012 – February 3, 2013; catalogue
- “12 Ballads for Huguenot House,” dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany, June 9 – September 16, 2012; catalogue
- “Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art,” Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, IL, February 16 – June 10, 2012; Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, TX, September 7 – December 7, 2013; SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM, February 1 – May 17, 2014; Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, July 25 – November 30, 2014; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, January 31 – May 10, 2015; catalogue
- 2011 “Social Structures,” Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Sun Valley, ID, March 18 – May 20, 2011
- “The North Wind and the Sun,” Diverseworks, Houston, TX, March 11 – April 16 2011
- “Instruments of Resurrection,” Roots & Culture, Chicago, IL, February 19 – March 19, 2011
- 2010 “Grain of Emptiness: Buddhism Inspired Contemporary Art,” Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY, November 5, 2010 – April 11, 2011
- “Gestures of Resistance,” Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR, January 26 – June 26, 2010
- “Hand+Made Contemporary: Just a Closer Walk With Thee, Toward a Legendary Black Clay Superhero,” Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, May 15 – July 25, 2010
- “2010 Whitney Biennial,” Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, February 25 – May 30, 2010; catalogue
- 2009 “Shoe Shine Stands and other archetypal structures of Blackness,” Nada Art Fair, Miami, FL, 2009
- 2008 “Heartland,” Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands, October 4, 2008 – February 8, 2009; traveled to Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, October 1, 2009 – January 17, 2010; catalogue
- “Branded Alongside the Cabinet of Curiosities,” Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, 2008
- “Tea Shacks, Collard Greens and the Preservation of Soul,” Center for the Proliferation of Afro-Asian Artifacts, Chicago, IL, 2008
- “Contemporary Response to the Plantation Cabinet, circa 1782,” Chipstone Foundation Estate, Milwaukee, WI, 2008

Projects and Residencies:

- 2021 “2021 Sculpture Milwaukee,” co-curated by Theaster Gates and Michelle Grabner, Milwaukee, MN, June 2021 – Fall 2022
- “K. Kofi Moyo and FESTAC ‘77: The Activation of a Black Archive,” co-curated by Romi Crawford and Theaster Gates, Logan Center Exhibitions, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 12 - March 21, 2021
- 2019 “Black Artists Retreat [B.A.R.] 2019: Sonic Imagination,” New York, NY, October 11 – 12,

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- 2019
“In The Absence of Light: Gesture, Humor and Resistance in The Black Aesthetic,”
organized by Theaster Gates, Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, IL, September 19,
2019 – January 5, 2020
- 2018 “A Johnson Publishing Story,” curated by Theaster Gates, Stony Island Arts Bank,
Chicago, IL, June 28 – September 30, 2018
- 2017 “IHME project 2017: The Black Charismatic,” IHME Contemporary Art Festival, Helsinki,
Finland, April 2017
- 2015 “Chicago Architecture Biennial,” Chicago, IL, October 3, 2015 – January 27, 2016
“Black Artists Retreat [B.A.R.],” Chicago, IL, August 20 – 22, 2015
- 2014 “Back of the House: 2014-15,” Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects:
External Partnerships, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2014 –
2015
“Theaster Gates: The Black Monastic,” Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto,
Portugal, September 7 – 19, 2014
“Retreat,” curated by Theaster Gates, Valerie Carberry Gallery, and Richard Gray
Gallery, Chicago, IL, August 22 – October 4, 2014; EXPO Chicago, Navy Pier,
September 18 – 24, 2014; catalogue
“Black Artists Retreat [B.A.R.],” Chicago, IL, August 21 – 23, 2014
- 2013 “Black Artists Retreat [B.A.R.],” Chicago, IL, August 22 – 23, 2013
- 2012 “Creative Time Global Residency,” Haiti, 2012 – 2013
“12 Ballads for Huguenot House,” dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany, June 9 –
September 16, 2012; catalogue
“Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art,” Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, IL,
February 16 – June 10, 2012; Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston,
Houston, TX, September 7 – December 7, 2013; SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM,
February 1 – May 17, 2014; Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, July
25 – November 30, 2014; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, MN, January 31 – May 10, 2015; catalogue
- 2010 “Artadia New York Artist Residency,” International Studio & Curatorial Program, New
York, NY, July 1 – September 30, 2010
“Gestures of Resistance,” Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR, June 18 – 19,
2010
“Hand+Made Contemporary: Just a Closer Walk With Thee, Toward a Legendary Black
Clay Superhero,” Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, May 15 – July 25,
2010
“To Speculate Darkly: Theaster Gates and Dave, the Slave Potter,” Chipstone
Foundation, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee WI, April 16 – August 1, 2010
“Pushing the Archive, Art History Archive and a Mover’s Uniform,” performance at The
Armory Show, New York, NY, 2010
“Cosmology of Yard,” installation and performance at “2010 Whitney Biennial,” Whitney
Museum of American Art, New York, NY, February 25 – May 30, 2010; catalogue

REGEN PROJECTS

“Theaster Gates: Arts/Industry Residency, Pottery,” John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Chicago, IL, January 3 – March 27, 2010

Screenings:

- 2020 “Dance of Malaga,” Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, August 6, 2020
- 2019 “Dance of Malaga,” Art Basel Miami Beach: Meridians, Miami Beach, FL, December 5 – 8, 2019
“Dance of Malaga,” Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA, May 8, 2019
- 2017 “The Black Charismatic,” Finnkino Tennispalatsi, Helsinki, Finland, April 5, 2017
- 2016 “Gone are the Days of Shelter and Martyr,” Rosebud, Waltham, MA, March 3 – April 3, 2016
- 2015 “Gone are the Days of Shelter and Martyr,” screening in “All the World’s Futures,” Venice Biennale, Corderie, Venice, Italy, May 9 – November 22, 2015; catalogue

Selected Recordings:

- 2020 Theaster Gates & The Black Monks, “Afro-Mingei,” released by Madonna Press/The Vinyl Factory, 2020
- 2019 Theaster Gates & The Black Monks, “Amalgam,” released by Madonna Press/The Vinyl Factory, 2019
- 2018 Theaster Gates & The Black Monks, “Furthermore,” released by Black Madonna Press/The Vinyl Factory, 2019
Theaster Gates & The Black Monks Of Mississippi, “Black Madonna,” released by Black Madonna Press/The Vinyl Factory, 2018

Selected Performances:

- 2020 “Theaster Gates and special guests: Whoa de Whoa” (online), Gray Sound Sessions, Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, Chicago, IL, July 31, 2020
- 2019 “In Concert: Theaster Gates and the Black Monks,” Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, October 26, 2019
- 2017 “Theaster Gates: transmissions spirituelles du gospel au Blues,” Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, December 1, 2017
“Processions: Plantation Lullabies,” Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., October 13, 2017
“The Black Charismatic Concert,” Rock Church, Helsinki, Finland, April 6, 2017
“Jason Moran and Theaster Gates: Looks of a Lot,” Eisenhower Theater, The Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., February 24, 2017

REGEN PROJECTS

- 2016 “Processions: The Runners,” Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., September 21, 2016
“A Cultural Revival: Theaster Gates,” Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH, September 14, 2016
“Bookbinding and A cappella,” Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria, April 23, 2016
- 2015 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden 40th Anniversary Gala, performing with the Black Monks of Mississippi, New York, NY, November 9, 2015
“See, Sit, Sup, Sip, Sing: Holding Court,” Opening Celebration: Radical Presence, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, June 15, 2015
- 2014 “Theaster Gates: See, Sit, Sup, Sip, Sing: Holding Court,” Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY, January 16, 2014
“The Black Monastic: Theaster Gates and The Black Monks of Mississippi,” performance with bass players Henrique Fernandes, Rui Leal and Antonio Augusto, Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal, September 15, 2014
“The Black Monastic: Theaster Gates and The Black Monks of Mississippi,” concert with musician Mário Costa, Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal, September 13, 2014
- 2013 “Tis So Sweet Or I Need Sugar Lawd,” performance with the Black Monks of Mississippi, Art Speaks: 50 Years Forward Birmingham Museum of Art, Steiner Auditorium, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, April 25, 2013
- 2012 “Theaster Gates & the Black Monks of Mississippi perform Dave the Potter,” Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO, August 13, 2012
“red, black and green: a blues (rbGb),” written by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, performed at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, October 13 – 15, 20 – 22, 2011; traveled to Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center at University of Houston, Houston, TX, November 4 – 5, 2011; Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale, AZ, January 20, 2012; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, March 16 – 17, 2012; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 12 – 14, 2012; Bates College, Lewiston, ME, April 27 – 28, 2012; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA, May 10 – 13, 2012; Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas with Seattle Center, Seattle, WA, May 30 – June 2, 2012
“See, Sit, Sup, Sip, Sing: Holding Court,” Armory Show, New York, NY, March 8 – 11, 2012; catalogue
- 2010 “Just a Closer Look with Thee,” and “Toward a Legendary Black Clay Superhero,” (part of “Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft”), Houston Museum of African American Culture, Houston, TX, July 17, 2010
“Gestures of Resistance,” Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR, June 18 – 19, 2010
“Pushing the Archive, Art History Archive and a Mover’s Uniform,” The Armory Show, New York, NY, 2010
- 2009 “Holiness in 3 Parts,” Boots Contemporary Gallery, St. Louis, MO, September 18, 2009
“Black Monks of Mississippi,” South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, IL, January 24, 2009

REGEN PROJECTS

- “Temple Exercises performance with Black Monks of Mississippi,” Little Black Pearl, Chicago, IL, January 10, 2009
- 2008 “Black Monks and the Gospel of Black,” Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands, October 4, 2008
“Black Monks of Mississippi, If You See Jesus Tell Him Where I Am,” Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL, September 28, 2008
- 2007 “Storyed Toy: The Emotional and Imaginative Relationship Between a Boy and His Toys (plus a few other things),” performance “Under Our Feet” with Rachel Norgaard and Mitchell Squire, UNI Gallery of Art, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA, February 9, 2007
- 2006 “Speaking of Passage: Two Artists in the Conversation of Migration,” part of Know More: Conversations That Matter series, sponsored by Public Square at the Illinois Humanities Council, CPL: West Englewood Branch, Chicago, IL, November 4, 2006

Lectures and Presentations:

- 2021 “Race to Justice: Theaster Gates” (virtual), University of California, Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures, Santa Barbara, CA, April 29, 2021
“How to Sell Hardware with Theaster Gates and Zachary Cahill” (virtual), EXPO CHGO ONLINE 2021, Chicago, IL, April 9, 2021
“Theaster Gates in Conversation with Massimiliano Gioni” (virtual), New Museum, New York, NY, February 25, 2021
“Artforum at Sotheby’s: Grief and Grievance at the New Museum” (virtual), Sotheby’s, February 18, 2021
- 2020 “The “Art” Of Black Visual Archives - Who Has Them? Where Are They?” (virtual), The History Makers, December 3, 2020
- 2019 “Artist’s Talk with Theaster Gates,” Museum of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK, December 12, 2019
“Artist Talk with Theaster Gates and Hamza Walker,” Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, October 24, 2019
“What Else Can Art Be? Theaster Gates In Conversation,” Royal Institute of British Architects, London, UK, October 4, 2019
“Artist Talk: Theaster Gates in Conversation with Sarah Douglas and Beth Rudin DeWoody,” Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, IL, September 21, 2019
“Opening-Day Talk: Theaster Gates and Hamza Walker,” Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, September 5, 2019
“Theaster Gates and Philippe Descola in Conversation,” Night of Ideas: “Facing the Present,” Quai d’Orsay, Paris, France, January 31, 2019
- 2018 “Artist Talk: Theaster Gates on Land,” Lunder Institute for American Art, Colby College, Waterville, ME, November 15, 2018
“Theaster Gates in Conversation,” Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, November 13, 2018

REGEN PROJECTS

- “Nasher Prize Dialogues: Performance as Sculpture, with Theaster Gates and Ragnar Kjartansson,” presented in partnership with Nasher Sculpture Center, Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland, August 23, 2018
- “Theaster Gates in Conversation with Linda Johnson Rice,” Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, IL, June 28, 2018
- “Baccalaureate Speaker,” Colby College, Waterville, ME, May 26, 2018
- “Nasher Prize Talk with Recipient Theaster Gates,” Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, TX, April 6, 2018
- “Theaster Gates and Dan Pitera in Conversation,” Tulane University, New Orleans, LA March 5, 2018
- “Working the Public, with Theaster Gates,” California African American Museum, January 24, 2018
- “Artist as Social Activist: A Conversation with Theaster Gates,” FOG Design+Art, Fort Mason Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, CA, January 12, 2018
- 2017 “Cosmopolis #1, Collective Intelligence,” Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, December 1, 2017
- “Artist Talk: Theaster Gates,” Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, November 30, 2017
- “Formal Forms,” Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA, November 2, 2017
- “After the Universal: Lessons from the Museum,” Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, IL, October 30, 2017
- “Two Long Poems,” Cooper Union, New York, NY, September 26, 2017
- “Theaster Gates: Lunder Institute Inaugural Lecture,” Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME, September 19, 2017
- “Theaster Gates (The 2016-2017 Adams-Tillim Lecture),” Bennington College, Bennington, VT, April 25, 2017
- “Theaster Gates: The Art Sermon,” Canon Chapel, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, April 18, 2017
- “IHME 2017 Discussion: The Black Charismatic,” Gloria Cultural Arena, Helsinki, Finland, April 8, 2017
- “Conversations with Artists: Theaster Gates,” National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., February 26, 2017
- “Conversation with Theaster Gates and Hamza Walker,” Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA, January 15, 2017
- 2016 “Artist’s Talk by Theaster Gates,” Exhibition Laboratory, University of the Arts Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, October 27, 2016
- “Breakfast and talk with Theaster Gates and Hamza Walker,” Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria, April 23, 2016
- “A Cursory Sermon on Art and the City,” Wasserman Cinematheque, Waltham, MA, March 23, 2016
- “Conversation: Martin Puryear and Theaster Gates,” The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 4, 2016
- “Art of Change Workshop on Art and Social Engagement,” Art of Change Initiative, Ford Foundation, January 5, 2016
- 2015 “Value and Viability,” Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago, IL, December 10, 2015
- “Theaster Gates 'Sanctum',” St. George’s, Bristol, UK, October 31, 2015

REGEN PROJECTS

- “The Gail Silver Memorial Lecture: Theaster Gates,” Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI, October 14, 2015
- “To Build a Bank: Notes from the Construction Site,” Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, October 8, 2015
- “Panel Discussion: The Art of Architecture—David Adjaye's Collaborations with Artists,” The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, September 19, 2015
- “Theaster Gates: Trustees’ and Governors’ Speaker,” Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME, July 15, 2015
- “The Most Inspired Among Us, a conversation with Carrie Mae Weems,” Opening Celebration: Radical Presence, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, June 15, 2015
- “San Francisco Art Institute Commencement,” Nourse Theater, San Francisco, CA, May 17, 2015
- “Theaster Gates + Lisa Lee on Doris Salcedo,” Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 16, 2015
- “Learning from Roofers: Theaster Gates in conversation,” Tate Modern, London, UK, April 27, 2015
- 2014 “Visiting Artists Program Lecture: Theaster Gates,” Bill and Stephanie Sick Distinguished Visiting Artist, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, September 2, 2014
- “Commencement Speaker,” School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 12, 2014
- “An Analog but A Very Important Conversation,” Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation Public Lecture, deFine ART, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA, February 18, 2014
- “Controversy Session: Gentrification and Misuse,” The Museum of Arte útil, via Skype, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands, February 6, 2014
- “The Artist’s Life Series: In Conversation with Anna Deavere Smith,” Arts Incubator, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, January 2014
- 2013 “Art Conversation with Filipa Ramos,” Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy, December 12, 2013
- “Conversation in Urban Art: Theaster Gates and Steve Edwards,” The Women’s Board, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, December 10, 2013
- “To Dig Constantly, Mining Myself,” The Rapp Lecture in Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada, November 20, 2013
- “Theaster Gates: A Way of Working,” Sears Crosstown Arts Visiting Artist Series, Crosstown Arts, Memphis, TN, November 16, 2013
- “Artist Talk: ‘12 Ballads for Huguenot House’ with Theaster Gates,” Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL November 11, 2013
- “Du Bois: The Early Social Practitioner with Theaster Gates,” University of Massachusetts Amherst Architecture + Design Public Lecture Series, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, November 4, 2013
- “Walid Raad and Theaster Gates in Conversation with Mohsen Mostafavi, ‘On Art and Cities,’” Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, MA, October 24, 2013
- “A Way of Working,” Vera List Center Prize for Art and Politics Public Lecture, The New School, New York, NY, September 18 – 19, 2013

REGEN PROJECTS

- “Thought Leadership Speaker Series,” Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland, June 12, 2013
- “Urban Think & Drink: Theaster Gates,” Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago, IL, May 22, 2013
- “Artist Talk: Theaster Gates with David Levin & Hamza Walker,” Museum of Contemporary Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 18, 2013
- “To Make the Thing that Makes the Thing,” 16th Annual Benesse Public Lecture, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH, April 3, 2013
- “Current Perspectives Lecture Series: Theaster Gates,” Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO, March 28, 2013
- “I Believe in Places,” Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE, March 27, 2013
- “Architecture Lecture: Theaster Gates,” University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI, March 20, 2013
- “To Make the Thing That Makes the Thing,” The University of Pennsylvania School of Design, February 2013
- “Leading Ideas Speaker Series: Theaster Gates,” in conjunction with Our Literal Speed, The Banff Center, Banff, Alberta, Canada, January 30, 2013
- “Theaster Gates: Soul Manufacturing Corporation: To make the Thing that Makes the Things,” Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA, January 21, 2013
- 2012 “Kinetic: Conversations in Contemporary Art,” American University, Washington D.C., November 6, 2012
- “Featured Artists Lecture Series: Theaster Gates,” Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO, August 13, 2012
- “Our Literal Speed,” presented by the Jackson Pollock Bar, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 19, 2012
- “SAM Talks: Theaster Gates and The Listening Room,” Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, March 24, 2012
- “A Story About Space: Public Lecture with Theaster Gates,” Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, March 23, 2012
- “My Labor is My Protest / Artist Agency in the Re-Creation of Space,” Maryland Institute College of Arts, Baltimore, MD, February 8, 2012
- 2011 “Artist Talk: Theaster Gates,” California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA, September 27, 2011
- “Theaster Gates: An Epitaph for Civil Rights and Other Domesticated Structures,” Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA, June 20, 2011
- “7 Projects,” Archeworks, Chicago, IL, April 4, 2011
- “In Conversation: Naomi Beckwith, Theaster Gates, and Franklin Sirmans,” part of Open Forum, The Armory Show, New York, NY, March 4, 2011
- 2010 “Temple Exercises: A Building Performance,” Levine Museum of the New, South Charlotte, NC, November 18, 2010
- “Sermons on the City, A Performance-Talk,” Loeb Fellows, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 25, 2010
- “To Speculate Darkly by Theaster Gates,” Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, April 29, 2010
- “Resurrecting Dave,” Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, April 16, 2010

REGEN PROJECTS

- “New Paradigms – How WE Influence Art: Dawoud Bey, Theaster Gates and Kehinde Wiley,” Art Institute of Chicago, IL, April 9, 2010
- 2009 “Intersections of Art and Architecture,” Catalyst Iowa, Des Moines, IA, November 11, 2009
“Temple Exercises: A Building Performance,” Levine Museum of the New, South Charlotte, NC, October 29, 2009
“Arts and Activism in St. Louis, Detroit, and Chicago,” Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center, Chicago, IL, October 1, 2009
“Representations Series,” Experimental Station and Illinois Humanities Council, Chicago, IL, April 10, 2009
“Artist talk with ‘Temple Exercises’ fabrication team,” Little Black Pearl, Chicago, IL, January 10, 2009
“Shacks, Sheds, and Other Small Spaces,” University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC, 2009
“Symposium on Contemporary Painting, Performance,” University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL, 2009
“Unpacking Yamaguchi, Myth, Ecstasy and the Black Church,” School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL, 2009
“Why Make Art Now,” Performance Studies, School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL, 2009
- 2008 “Dave: Neo-Slave Narratives and Contemporary Black Identity—I made this Pot,” Performance Lecture, Paris, France, 2008
- 2007 “Artists Connect: Theaster Gates Connects with Japanese Ceramics,” The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, November 3, 2007

Conference Presentations:

- 2021 “Keynote Speaker: Theaster Gates,” Hawai‘i Contemporary Art Summit, Honolulu Museum of Art, February 12, 2021
- 2017 “The Black Metropolis, between Past and Future: Race, Urban Planning and African-American Culture in Chicago,” University of Chicago Center in Paris, France, November 18, 2017
- 2016 “Contract Design Forum,” Del Mar, CA, November 10, 2016
“Artist As Catalyst: Engaging the Home, From Instrument of Dispossession to Site of Urban Renewal,” IdeasCity Detroit, Jam Handy, Detroit, MI, April 30, 2016
- 2015 “Knight Cities Challenge Winners Summit,” Detroit, MI, July 18, 2015
“Empowering the Voices Inside Communities,” Americans for the Arts 2015 Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, June 12, 2015
“From the Potter’s Wheel: Start with What You’ve Got,” Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference, Detroit, MI, May 21, 2015
“Public Art: Art in the City,” PUBLIC Symposium, Perth, Australia, April 16, 2015
“Theaster Gates: How to revive a neighborhood: with imagination, beauty and art,” TED2015: Truth & Dare, Session 7: Creative Ignition, Vancouver, Canada, March 18, 2015

REGEN PROJECTS

- 2014 “Reflections on the Future of Making,” Keynote Address, Glass Art Society 43rd Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 20, 2014
- “Yamaguchi, Soul Manufacturing Corporation and A Potter Named Dave. The Need for Blackness Within Contemporary Ceramics,” National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), 48th Annual Conference, Milwaukee, MN, March 19, 2014
- “11th Annual Creative Chicago Expo,” Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL, March 14, 2014
- “They do things there they don't do on Broadway: The Visual Performed,” organized by Creative Capital, College Art Association 102nd Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, February 15, 2014
- “Exhibiting Socially Engaged Art: A Chicago Case Study,” organized by Mary Jane Jacob, College Art Association 102nd Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, February 14, 2014
- “Social Practice.Social Justice Symposium,” Project Row Houses 20th Anniversary Celebration, Houston, TX, January 24, 2014
- 2013 “Creative Time Global Residency: Reports From the Field”, New York, NY, December 3, 2013
- “Urban Imprint: The Art and Science Shaping Our Cities,” hosted by The University of Chicago, Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Frederick P. Rose Hall, New York, NY, November 14, 2013
- “Cultural Investment: Creating a Civic Identity Through the Arts,” CityLab: Urban Solutions for Global Challenges, NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, New York, NY, October 7, 2013
- “One State Together in the Arts” One State Illinois Conference, Quad Cities, IL, June 24, 2013
- “Theaster Gates in Conversation with Romi Crawford,” Black Collectivities, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 4, 2013
- “LINC Legacy and Advancements in the Field,” hosted by the Ford Foundation, May 2013
- “Constituency Engagement – Culture-Initiated Redevelopment: Strategies in Innovative Constituent Engagement,” Association of Black Foundation Executives, Palmer House Hilton Hotel, Chicago, IL, April 6, 2013
- “Creating Heat - The Artist as Catalyst: Theaster Gates at TEDxUNC,” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, February 9, 2013
- “Building CapaCity Session,” World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Davos, Switzerland, January 26, 2013
- “Creative Resilience Session,” World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Davos, Switzerland, January 25, 2013
- “Transformative Art: Theaster Gates,” World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Davos, Switzerland, January 23, 2013
- 2012 “Performing the City,” Keynote Address, The National Performance Network Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December 15, 2012
- 2011 “Craft FORWARD Symposium 2011 - Mass Craft,” Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco, CA, April 3, 2011

REGEN PROJECTS

- 2010 “Our Literal Speed,” College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, February 10, 2010
- 2009 “The Dorchester Project,” Accidental Publics Symposium, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, October 3, 2009
“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: Events in the Vicinity of Art and History, University of Chicago, Chicago IL, May 2, 2009

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
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada
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, UK
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

Awards and Grants:

- 2021 The Royal Institute of British Architects *RIBA Honorary Fellowship*
Austrian Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation *Austrian Frederick Kiesler Prize for Architecture and the Arts*
- 2020 World Economic Forum *26th Annual Crystal Award*
- 2019 Obayashi Foundation *Visions of the City Grant*

REGEN PROJECTS

- 2018 Urban Land Institute *J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development*
Nasher Sculpture Center *Nasher Prize*
Colby College *Honorary Degree*
Getty Center *Scholar / Artist in Residence*
University of the Arts London *Honorary Doctorate*
- 2017 American Academy of Arts and Letters *Award in Architecture*
Center for Architecture and Design *Edmund N. Bacon Award*
Sprengel Museum Hannover *Kurt Schwitters Prize*
- 2016 Robert Rauschenberg Foundation *Rauschenberg Residency*
The Aspen Institute *Harman-Eisner Artist in Residence Program*
American Academy of Arts & Sciences *Visual Arts and Performing Arts - Criticism and Practice*
Brandeis University *Richman Distinguished Fellowship in Public Life*
- 2015 Smithsonian Institute *Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award for Social Progress*
San Francisco Art Institute *Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree*
KLEO Center *Kleo Barrett Angel Award*
Artes Mundi *Artes Mundi 6*
- 2014 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation *Grant*, for Place Lab, The University of Chicago, IL
School of the Art Institute of Chicago *Honorary Doctorate*
Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago *Community Impact Award*
Landmarks Illinois *Legendary Landmarks, Landmark in the Making Award*
Union League Club of Chicago *Distinguished Artist Program*
University of Chicago *Diversity Leadership Award*
- 2013 The Urban Land Institute *Chicago Vision Award for Programming*, for Arts Incubator, The University of Chicago, IL
South East Chicago Commission (SECC) *Connecting Communities Through the Arts Award*, for Arts Incubator, The University of Chicago, IL
Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation *Award for Excellence*, for Arts Incubator, The University of Chicago, IL
- 2012 Creative Time *Global Residency*
Creative Capital *Visual Arts Grant*
United States Artists *USA Kippy Fellow*
Wall Street Journal *Arts Innovator of the Year*
New School Vera List Center *Prize for Art and Politics*
The Armory Show *Artist Commission*
- 2011 Gwendolyn Knight and Jacob Lawrence *Fellowship*
Graham Foundation *Grant*
- 2010 Harpo Foundation *Grant*, shared with Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, North Omaha, NE

REGEN PROJECTS

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design *Loeb Fellowship*
Artadia New York, and International Studio and Curatorial Program *New York Residency*
John Michael Kohler Arts Center *Art/Industry Residency, Pottery*
Museum of Contemporary Craft *Artist in Residence*

2009 The Joyce Foundation *Joyce Award*
Graham Foundation *Architecture Award*

2008 Artadia *Artadia Award*