

NASHER PRIZE GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

April 5, 2018

The Nasher Sculpture Center announces an open call for participation in the Nasher Prize Graduate Symposium, which aims to expand scholarship on the field of contemporary sculpture in its many forms. Submissions should address themes related to the work of the 2018 Nasher Prize Laureate, Theaster Gates. Though best known for his architectural projects, such as Dorchester Projects (ongoing since 2008) and Stony Island Arts Bank (ongoing since 2015), for which the artist has restored abandoned buildings in Chicago and recast them as cultural centers, Gates approaches all aspects of his work from the perspective of an object-maker, with a strong focus on the material aspects of memory, history, and place. Gates has established a new paradigm for sculpture by joining together disparate methods of artistic production—the creation of discrete objects and the re-zoning, rebuilding, and reterritorializing of architectural spaces.

The annual Nasher Prize Graduate Symposium offers master's and doctoral students from any academic discipline the opportunity to present scholarly work on a host of questions and topics related to each year's new Laureate. Addressing a broad audience of art historians and museum professionals, participants will receive feedback from fellow presenters, an invited keynote speaker, and audience members. Students selected to present papers will also have their work published in the annual symposium compendium, together with the paper delivered by the keynote speaker.

Suggested Topics* for the 2018 Nasher Prize Graduate Symposium: Theaster Gates

- Materiality in social practice art
- Representation, memory, and the memorial in contemporary art
- The artist's role in community rebuilding
- Ethics and social practice art
- Object-making in the expanded field of sculpture
- Labor, craft, and contemporary art
- Material history, archives, and cultural preservation in contemporary art
- Black bodies in performance art
- Identity politics and art: Contemporary art after the 1993 Whitney Biennial

*Preference will be given to those papers that address Gates's work directly.

Complete proposals must include the following:

- Contact information, participant's field and university, and CV
- Paper title and abstract of no more than 200 words that includes 3 to 5 keywords

Proposals are due by Sunday, December 10, 2017.

We hope to notify successful applicants by January 15, 2018.

With proof of need, eligible candidates may be considered for scholarship funding to offset travel costs.

Send submissions and questions to symposium@nashersculpturecenter.org

Registration information will follow.

For additional information see:

<http://www.nashersculpturecenter.org/art/nasher-prize/graduate-symposia/graduate-symposium?id=69>

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