

2017 Sandra Garrard Memorial Lecture Series



Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 6:30 pm

**Mickalene Thomas:
*Waiting on a Prime-Time Star***

a conversation with Mickalene Thomas and Mia L. Bagneris

Newcomb Art Department
Tulane University
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New Orleans, LA 70118
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<http://tulane.edu/liberal-arts/art>



Mickalene Thomas

Sandra Garrard Memorial Lecture

Mickalene Thomas is a 2015 United States Artists Francie Bishop Good & David Horvitz Fellow, a distinguished visual artist, filmmaker and curator who has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. She is known for paintings that combine art-historical, political and pop-cultural references. Her work introduces complex notions of femininity and challenges common definitions of beauty and aesthetic representations of women.

Thomas earned her MFA from Yale University in 2002, and a BFA from Pratt Institute in 2000. Her first solo museum exhibition, *Origin of the Universe*, originated at the Santa Monica Museum of Art in 2012 before traveling to the Brooklyn Museum of Art, where her film *Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman* premiered. Recent solo exhibitions include George Eastman House, New York; L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Monaco; and First International Contemporary Art Biennial, Columbia. Her work has been shown in numerous group exhibitions, including at La Conservera Contemporary Art Center, Ceuti, Spain; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Hara Museum, Tokyo; National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC; Saatchi Gallery, London; and University Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her work has been featured in various catalogues and reviewed by *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *NY Arts*, *Modern Painters*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, among others. Thomas has participated in residency programs at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2002-2003) and the Versailles Foundation Munn Artists Program in Giverny, France (2011). Recent and upcoming commissions include *Better Days*, Galerie at Volkshaus, Basel, Switzerland (with Absolut Vodka Art Bureau); as well as mural projects for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority; Art in Embassies Program at the United States Embassy in Dakar, Senegal; and the Barclays Center, Brooklyn. Her film *Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman* is currently featured on HBO and received the Black Star Film Festival Audience Awards-Favorite Short in 2013. Thomas has recently been honored by the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco (2015), MoMA PS1 (2015), and BOMB Magazine, and has received a United States Artists Fellowship (2015), MoCADA Artistic Advocacy Award (2015), AICA-USA Best Show in a Commercial Space Nationally (2014), Anonymous Was A Woman Grant (2012), Brooklyn Museum Asher B. Durand Award (2012), Timerhi Award for Leadership in the Arts (2012), Joan Mitchell Grant (2009), Pratt Institute Alumni Achievement Award (2009), and Rema Hort Mann Grant (2007). Thomas's work is in the permanent collections of New York's Museum of Modern Art, Brooklyn Museum, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as the Detroit Institute of Arts, Hammer Museum, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Seattle Art Museum, and Smithsonian American Art Museum, among many others.

Mickalene Thomas is represented by Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong; Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago and Berlin; Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; and Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris and Brussels. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, and serves on the board Brooklyn Museum, Children's Museum of the Arts, MoCADA, MoMA PS1 and Rush Philanthropic.

cover image:
Mickalene Thomas
Tamika sur une chaise longue avec Monet
2012
rhinestones, acrylic, oil, and enamel
on wood panel
108 x 144 in.
Courtesy of the artist, Lehmann Maupin,
New York and Hong Kong, and
Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.



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Mia L. Bagneris teaches African diaspora art history and studies of race in Western art in the Newcomb Art Department at Tulane University.

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Mickalene Thomas: *Waiting on a Prime-Time Star*

a conversation with Mickalene Thomas and Mia L. Bagneris

in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition
Waiting on a Prime-Time Star at the Newcomb Art Museum

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 pm
reception immediately following in Woodward Way

Montine McDaniel Freeman Auditorium
Woldenberg Art Center
Newcomb Art Department
Tulane University

The lecture is free and open to the public.
For more information, please call 504.865.5327.