

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE FOR FY2024

ENERGY TO MEND TEARS IN THE SOCIAL FABRIC AND JOIN HEARTS AND MINDS, IN THE CAUSE OF RECOVERY AND REBIRTH

War and pandemic have revealed tears in the social fabric around the world, and shaken us all emotionally. As part of our ongoing mission to be a contemporary art museum that reflects the diversity of histories, societies and values across the globe, and to help find ways for us to live together, better, in 2024 the Mori Art Museum will stage two major solo exhibitions, featuring the work of Theaster Gates, and Louise Bourgeois.

A former student of urban design, ceramic, and more, Chicago-based Theaster Gates (b. 1973) is highly regarded in the international contemporary art world for his transdisciplinary practice including sculpture, installation and community revitalization projects. Recent years have seen him connecting Black and Japanese cultures within the intriguing conceptual framework of *Afro-Mingei*, and also at the Aichi Triennale 2022 presenting an installation after renovating the residential portion of the Former Earthenware Pipe Factory (*Maruri-Toukan*) in the city of Tokoname where he had studied pottery twenty years previously. This solo exhibition, first of its size for the artist in Asia, will link Chicago, Tokoname and Tokyo in a comprehensive, illuminating guide to the artistic realm of Theaster Gates.

Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010) is known for the spider sculpture *Maman* at Roppongi Hills, but this will be the first large-scale Japanese exhibition of the French sculptor's work for 27 years, since 1997. Bourgeois, who moved from Paris to New York in 1938, has earned a place in art history as a pioneering female artist whose work has enjoyed renewed appreciation in recent years, and as simply one of the 20th century's leading sculptors. Her practice entwining emotions from love to jealousy, anger and unease resonates just as strongly with our own feelings today.

We hope these two exhibitions will bring about the much-needed energy to mend tears in the social fabric and join hearts and minds, as we strive toward recovery and rebirth.

Kataoka Mami, Director, Mori Art Museum

Theaster Gates

Period: April 24 [Wed] - September 1 [Sun], 2024

Theaster Gates
The Listening House
2022
Installation view: Aichi Triennale 2022
Photo: ToLoLo studio



Louise Bourgeois

Period: September 25 [Wed], 2024 -
January 19 [Sun], 2025

Louise Bourgeois
Maman
1999/2002
Bronze, stainless steel, marble
9.27 x 8.91 x 10.23 m
Collection: Mori Building Co., Ltd, Tokyo



PRESS RELEASE

Mori Art Museum Public Relations Office [within Kyodo PR]
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THEASTER GATES

Period: April 24 [Wed] – September 1 [Sun], 2024

Venue: Mori Art Museum (53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

Organizer: Mori Art Museum

Curated by: Tokuyama Hirokazu (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum), Kataoka Mami (Director, Mori Art Museum)

Theaster Gates (b. 1973 in Chicago, IL) is an internationally-renowned artist whose practice encompasses a wide range of disciplines and mediums, with a focus on sculpture and ceramics but also including architecture, music and performance, and fashion and design. This is the first exhibition in Japan to offer a comprehensive overview of his work, and his largest presentation in the region to date.

This exhibition showcases a variety of works and projects from Gates' oeuvre, including significant new works created for the exhibition and works with close connections to Japan: from his artistic origins and projects in Tokoname, Aichi Prefecture, to a question he calls "*Afro-Mingei*," which is a philosophy put forth by Gates that is rooted in the cultural possibilities of fusing the Japanese *Mingei* folk art movement with movements centering Black beauty and aesthetics.

Theaster Gates masterfully translates the intricacies of Blackness through clay, objecthood, space and materiality. While Black culture and history remain relatively little known among the Japanese public, this exhibition aims to convey the contemporary importance of art that celebrates craft, questions of race, politics, and cultural hybridity by offering a full overview of Gates' practice.

Theaster Gates

Born 1973 in Chicago, IL, where he continues to live, Theaster Gates studied urban design, ceramics, religion, and visual art at Iowa State University and the University of Cape Town, South Africa. In 2004, Gates began his now twenty-year engagement with the ceramic legacies of the city of Tokoname in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, where he participated in the International Workshop of Ceramic Art in Tokoname [IWCAT] pottery homestay program, and continues to honor and invest in local makers and craft histories. In recent years, he has had major solo exhibitions at such institutions as the New Museum (New York, 2022–23), Serpentine Pavilion (London, 2022), Whitechapel Gallery (London, 2021), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, 2019–20), Martin Gropius Bau (Berlin, 2019), Palais de Tokyo (Paris, 2019), and Fondazione Prada (Milan, 2018). In Japan, Gates exhibited at the Aichi Triennale 2022 and, in 2019, was selected for the Obayashi Foundation Research Program, "Visions of the City."



Photo: Tayama Tatsuyuki



[Left]
Theaster Gates
A Heavenly Chord
2022
Leslie speakers, Hammond B-3 organ, sound
Dimensions variable
Photo: Jim Prinz Photography



[Right]
Theaster Gates
Doric Temple
2022
High fire stoneware with glaze
Dimensions variable
Installation view: *Theaster Gates: Young Lords and Their Traces*, New Museum, New York, 2022-2023
Photo: Chris Strong

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LOUISE BOURGEOIS

Period: September 25 [Wed], 2024 - January 19 [Sun], 2025

Venue: Mori Art Museum (53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

Organizer: Mori Art Museum

Curated by: Tsubaki Reiko (Curator, Mori Art Museum), Yahagi Manabu (Assistant Curator, Mori Art Museum)

Louise Bourgeois (b. 1911 in Paris, d. 2010 in New York) is considered one of the most important artists of the past century. Over a career that spanned seven decades, she translated various emotional and psychological states through a range of materials, developing a heterogeneous body of work that marries psychological intensity with high formal invention.

The Mori Art Museum is delighted to announce that it is organizing Bourgeois' first major museum exhibition in Japan in 27 years. The exhibition will present works from all stages of the artist's career, including painting, prints, drawings, sculptures, installations, and writings. The Mori Art Museum is particularly pleased to showcase a selection of Bourgeois' paintings, dating from 1938 to 1949, for the first time in East Asia. This early body of work – the importance of which has only recently begun to be recognized – establishes the formal vocabulary and thematic concerns that Bourgeois would go on to mine for several decades. Moreover, the exhibition introduces works from her representative “spider” series and explores the themes of maternal love, healing, and memory that are conveyed in Roppongi Hills' public artwork *Maman*.

Expressed in her words “Art is a guaranty of sanity,” Bourgeois' art is indeed a testimony to her will to survive. The strength to survive that her works exude would be a vital reference for life in an era, after the pandemic, or under a tense political climate, when we have to face to the many issues.

Louise Bourgeois

Born 1911 in Paris, as the second daughter of parents who ran a tapestry gallery and atelier for tapestry restoration. In 1938, she moved to New York City and began to exhibit her works from the 1940s. She became an American citizen in 1957. In 1982, she had her first major retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the first exhibition dedicated to a female sculptor at the museum. Her first European solo exhibition was held at the Frankfurter Kunstverein in 1989, and subsequently presented her works in museums and international exhibitions worldwide. She passed away in 2010 at the age of 98. Posthumous exhibitions are organized in major museums internationally, including Tate Modern, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, and Long Museum.



Louise Bourgeois
Maman
1999/2002
Bronze, stainless steel, marble
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<https://tayori.com/f/fy2024-en/>

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