



VIA ART FUND AWARDED \$775,000 TO ARTISTS AND CURATORS IN 2025

Projects by Theaster Gates and Amie Siegel received \$100,000 grant awards, and VIA gifted The Studio Museum in Harlem an artwork by Kahlil Joseph

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Emphasizing direct engagement with new commissions of contemporary art, VIA Art Fund supports projects that exemplify core values of Artistic Production, Thought Leadership, and Public Engagement. Partnering directly with artists, curators, and cultural institutions around the globe, VIA Art Fund **awarded \$775,000 in 2025 through VIA's Artistic Production Grant Program and Curatorial Fellowship**, with a particular emphasis on works mounted beyond traditional exhibition environments. Additionally, in partnership with the artist, VIA gifted **Kahlil Joseph's *BLKNWS (R) Original Variations (Unique Variant #5)*** to **The Studio Museum in Harlem**. This gift was made in recognition of VIA's commissioning support for Joseph's *BLKNWS*, which debuted at the 58th Venice Biennale.

VIA is pleased to announce its 2025 grant recipients:

Artistic Production Grant Fund: \$750,000

1. **Theaster Gates: *Freedmen's Town Pavillion*** presented by the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy, Houston, TX (\$100,000 Production/Acquisition grant)
2. **Amie Siegel: *I Diseredati / The Dispossessed*** commissioned by Pompeii Commitment, Pompeii Archaeological Park, Italy (\$100,000 Artist-Direct Production/Acquisition grant)
3. **Whitney Lynn: *Atomic Open House*** presented by Black Cube Nomadic Art Museum, Nye County, NV (\$85,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
4. **Auriea Harvey: *Edmonia Triumphalis*** presented by Tinworks Art, Bozeman, MT (\$75,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
5. **Tau Lewis: *No one ascends from the underworld unmarked*** commissioned for the Performa 25 Biennial, New York, NY (\$75,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
6. **Precious Okoyomon: *Courtyard Commission*** presented by MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY (\$75,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
7. **Nick Cave: *Mammoth*** at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC (\$60,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
8. **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: *Undercurrents*** presented by the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston, TX (\$50,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
9. **Edison Peñafiel: *De Profundis Clamavi ad Astra (From the Depths, I Cried Out to the Stars)*** at Locust Projects, Miami, FL (\$50,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
10. **Kameelah Janan Rasheed: *Out of Bounds*** presented by Palais De Tokyo, Paris, France (\$50,000 Production/Exhibition grant)
11. **Chaw Ei Thein: *Artists' Street*** presented by 13th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany (\$30,000 Production/Exhibition grant)

“VIA is honored to support these 11 projects, each of which features an artist leveraging their creativity, depth of thought, and unique artistic perspective in service of an ambitious new undertaking within their practice,” reflects **Susan Thompson, VIA’s Director of Grantmaking and Curatorial Research**. “This cohort of grantees includes artists experimenting with new mediums, addressing urgent societal issues, engaging underserved communities, exploring historical moments with contemporary resonance, and pushing the boundaries of their work. VIA is inspired by each of these visionary artists and thrilled to be supportive of important commissions of contemporary art across diverse geographies within the US and abroad.”

Curatorial Fellowship: \$25,000

VIA Art Fund awarded its **2026 Curatorial Fellowship** to **Anni Pullagura**. Carrying a grant award of \$25,000, the Fellowship will support curatorial research and travel.

Anni A. Pullagura, PhD, is the Margaret and Terry Stent Associate Curator of American Art at the High Museum of Art. Previously, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, as well as assistant curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston. An alum of the Center for Curatorial Leadership, she has assisted on the organization of several national and international exhibitions, monographs, and publications, and currently serves on the Art of the Americas Advisory Think Tank for the Harvard Art Museums. Pullagura holds a doctorate in American Studies from Brown University. Her book manuscript, *Seeing Feeling: Troubling Empathy in Contemporary Art*, recasts the museum as the critical ground for engaging with the social and political dimensions of feeling and sentiment in the art encounter.

Brooke Davis Anderson, Executive Director of VIA Art Fund, observes, “Since its founding in 2013, VIA Art Fund has awarded **10 Curatorial Fellowships**, gifted **62 major artworks** to institutions across the United States, and awarded **close to \$10 million in grants** to a growing number of groundbreaking artists, esteemed curators, and important cultural institutions. VIA’s growing coalition of dedicated philanthropists across the globe make this philanthropy possible.”

Support for VIA

Many thanks to VIA Art Fund Partners, The KHR McNeely Family Fund, Kevin, Rosemary, Hannah Rose McNeely, and The Hess Foundation for their support, as well as in-kind support from Christie’s, Dechert LLP, and the Wagner Foundation.

About VIA Art Fund

[VIA Art Fund](#) is a 501(c)(3) founded by an international coalition of individuals and private foundations who believe in the central role art plays in society. Funding artists, curators, and arts organizations around the world, VIA Art Fund awards grants in two categories—Artistic Production Grants, and an annual Curatorial Fellowship grant—that exemplify VIA’s core values of *Artistic Production*, *Thought Leadership*, and *Public Engagement*.

For press images, interview requests, and all other inquiries, please reach out to press@viaartfund.org or to Sarah Haines, Director of Patron Programs and Communications at shaines@viaartfund.org.

VIA Art Fund

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