

NEWS RELEASE
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USF Contemporary Art Museum Presents a New Exhibition

Rico Gatson: Visible Time

June 2 – July 29, 2023

(TAMPA, FL – April 24, 2023) The USF Contemporary Art Museum, part of the Institute for Research in Art in the USF College of The Arts, presents ***Rico Gatson: Visible Time***. For more than two decades, Brooklyn-based artist Rico Gatson has been celebrated for his vibrant, colorful, and layered artworks. Inspired by significant moments in African American history, identity politics and spirituality, his oeuvre includes images of protests and longstanding injustices—touching on subjects like the murder of Emmett Till, the Watts Riots, and the formation of the Black Panthers—as well as dynamic abstract geometries that celebrate Pan-Africanist aesthetics and Black cultural and political figures.



Rico Gatson, *Sydney*, 2022. Color pencil and photograph collage on paper. 22 x 30 inches.
Courtesy of the artist and Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, NY.

In late May, Gatson will transform the walls of the USF Contemporary Art Museum with a kaleidoscopic, life-size image of Zora Neale Hurston—author, anthropologist, filmmaker, and Florida resident—along with a large-scale abstract composition. USF students will be invited to paint alongside the artist to help complete the installation inspired by the author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. While *Visible Time* also includes important paintings and works on paper by Gatson, the exhibition will additionally feature a mini-survey of the artist’s video works from 2001 to the present.

Rico Gatson (b. 1966, Augusta, GA) is a multimedia visual artist whose work explores themes of history, identity, popular culture, and spirituality, through sculpture, painting, video, and public art projects. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at venues such as The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY; The Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; The ESSL Museum, Vienna, Austria, and The Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. In 2019, Gatson completed an important commission for New York’s Metropolitan Transit Authority titled *Beacons*; it consists of eight permanent large-scale mosaics of prominent Black figures installed in the 167th Street Subway station in the Bronx. His work is also featured in the permanent collections of The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Studio Museum in Harlem, The Denver Art Museum, The Cheekwood Museum, The Kempner Museum, and The Yale University Art Gallery.

Rico Gatson: Visible Time is curated by Christian Viveros-Fauné and organized by the USF Contemporary Art Museum. The exhibition is supported in part by the Florida Department of State, Florida Arts & Culture. The USF Contemporary Art Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

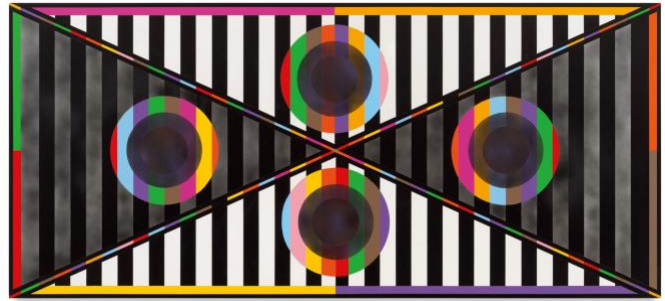
RELATED EVENTS

Exhibition Walkthrough + Opening Reception

Friday, June 2, 6:30pm – 9:00pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Join us at 6:30pm for a walkthrough of *Rico Gatson: Visible Time*, featuring the artist in conversation with curator Christian Viveros-Fauné. Following the walkthrough, CAM will present a short live musical performance by the band Soul Therapy, as well as an opening reception until 9pm. For questions or more information please email caminfo@usf.edu or call (813) 974-4133. This event is free and open to the public.



Rico Gatson, *Untitled (Malcolm In The Spirit)*, 2022. Acrylic paint and glitter on wood. 36 x 80 inches.
Courtesy of the artist and Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, NY.

Film Screenings

Dates TBA

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

CAM will offer several free film screenings during the *Rico Gatson: Visible Time* exhibition exploring themes related to the artist's practice. Check CAM.USF.EDU for the latest.

EXHIBITION WORKBOOK

A full color workbook will be available to students and museum visitors without cost. The publication includes an interview with Rico Gatson by Christian Viveros-Fauné, Curator-at-Large, and an essay by Mark Fredricks, Research Administrator.

EXHIBITION HOURS + ADMISSION

Special Hours: June 2nd 6:30-9pm.

Normal Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm; Thursday 10am-8pm; Saturday 1-4pm; Closed Sundays.

Closed University Holidays: June 19th in observance of Juneteenth holiday; July 3rd & 4th in observance of Independence Day holiday.

Admission: All exhibitions and events are free and open to the public.

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

USF Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial and socially engaged initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works. CAM.USF.EDU



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