

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
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Press Release

Exhibition

Tomashi Jackson: Across the Universe

May 30, 2025–March 29, 2026



Tomashi Jackson, *I see Fields of Green (Put the Ball Through the Hoop)*, 2022. Acrylic, Yule Quarry marble dust, and paper bags on canvas with PVC marine vinyl mounted on a handcrafted wood awning structure with brass hooks and grommets. Image and work courtesy the artist and Tilton Gallery.

HOUSTON, TX (April 23, 2025) – Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is excited to announce the exhibition *Tomashi Jackson: Across the Universe*, a mid-career survey of the Houston-born artist that presents nearly a decade of work across disciplines.

Press Contact

For high-resolution images or media inquiries, contact:

Michael Robinson
Communications and Marketing
Manager
mrobinson@camh.org
713.284.8255

Tomashi Jackson creates vibrant research-driven work grounded in a painting practice and utilizing printmaking, video, photography, fiber, and sculpture. Jackson's work is often informed through region-specific research grounded in interviews with local community members, historians, and advocates, archival materials, and ephemera. Histories collide with color theory to present layered chronologies with personal interrogations of land, labor, and law, creating triumphant and vibrant pieces celebrating the empowerment of disenfranchised groups within American democracy.

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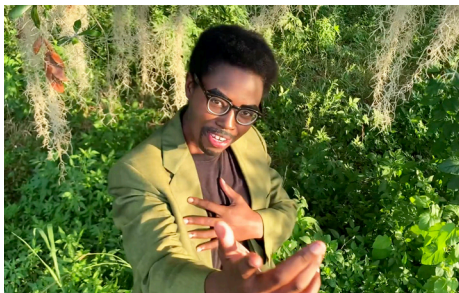
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Tomashi Jackson, *Ecology of Fear (Abrams for Governor of Georgia (Negro Women wait to congratulate LBJ), 2020. Archival prints on PVC marine vinyl, Pentelic marble dust, acrylic paint, American election flyers, Greek ballot papers, paper bags, and muslin mounted on a handcrafted select pine structure with brass hooks and grommets, cinder blocks. Work courtesy Arthur Lewis and Hau Nguyen. Image courtesy the artist and Tilton Gallery.*



D'TALENTZ (Big Keto, A-Dogg, King, & Tommy Tonight), *The Secret Garden*, 2020. Single-channel video (still) with sound (8:55 minutes). Image and work courtesy the artist and Tilton Gallery.

Her practice employs geometric abstraction, expressionism, and halftone lines that crosshatch and affect the viewer's perception, illuminating the intersecting nature of historic resistance to oppression with present day resonances across multi-dimensional works. Taking strong influence from artist and educator Josef Albers, Jackson pushes against a true representation of color but utilizes relativity to evoke feeling. Similarly, works often juxtapose key past and present moments across generations as both texture and text, appearing as image in the work and name in the title. Works such as *Love Rollercoaster (2016 Butler County Line)(1965 John Lewis Accepts Voting Rights Act Signing Pen from LBJ) (2022)* juxtapose the historic moment of the Voting Rights Act with the current gerrymandering affecting Butler County in Ohio, pushing against a notion of linear progress, revealing a performative political display of "advancement."

Jackson's time-based video works explore similar sentiments but also include a series of lip-synced videos in her alter-ego "Tommy Tonight," playing with the intersections between performance, gender, and Black music, specifically 90's R&B. Tonight's musical ambitions began with the larger boy group D'TALENTZ (in reference to Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Talents*), composed of Big Keto, A-Dogg, King, and Tommy Tonight, and features renditions/lip-syncs of popular throwback hits from artists like Boyz II Men, Quincy Jones, Bobby V., and others.

"My family is a product of the Great Migration route from Texas to California and I am thrilled to bring *Across The Universe* to Contemporary Arts Museum Houston," says artist Tomashi Jackson. "This opportunity to share more than ten years of my work visualizing public narratives across disciplines to the city of my birth is a long held dream come true."

"I was able to get to know Tomashi through our work together in 2015 at Project Row Houses," says CAMH Co-Director and Chief Curator, Ryan N. Dennis. "It's a privilege to be able to bring her major survey show to Houston in a moment when her work connecting social movements and legislation is more timely than ever."

Jackson paints progress as non-linear, presenting a constellation of singular moments in legal and social change that reckon with the circular relationship between civic movements and law. The works materialize the historic battles of enfranchisement through momentary snapshots that illustrate their structural impacts.

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Tomashi Jackson, *Guns and Butter (Nia in the Morehouse Creed)*, 2022. C-print mounted on Sintra. Image and work courtesy the artist and Tilton Gallery.

Tomashi Jackson: Across the Universe is organized by Miranda Lash, Ellen Bruss Chief Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. The exhibition's presentation at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is curated by Ryan N. Dennis, Co-Director and Chief Curator.

About Tomashi Jackson

Tomashi Jackson (b. 1980, Houston, TX) was raised in Los Angeles, California. She received her MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale School of Art in 2016, her Master of Science in Art, Culture and Technology from MIT School of Architecture and Planning in 2012, her BFA from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 2010, and is a 2019 alumnus of Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Jackson's work has been included in recent solo exhibitions at Neuberger Museum of Art, Parrish Art Museum, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and Wexner Center for the Arts. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions including *Here is a Gale Warning: Art, Crisis and Survival* at Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge (2025), *Power of the People: Art and Democracy* at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2024), *Going Dark: The Contemporary Figure at the Edge of Visibility* at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (2023), *Multiplicity* at Frist Art Museum (2023), *Working Thought* at Carnegie Museum of Art (2022), *Off the Record* at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (2021), and the 2019 Whitney Biennial. Jackson was the recipient of the Rappaport Prize in 2023, the Roy R. Neuberger Prize in 2022, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant in 2020. Jackson's artworks are in numerous museum collections including Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Baltimore Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and Pérez Art Museum Miami. Jackson will be in residence at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation in Captiva, FL in 2025 and will have a solo exhibition at Tilton Gallery, New York in early 2026. Jackson lives and works in Cambridge, MA.

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About Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH)

Established in 1948, CAMH is one of the oldest non-collecting contemporary art museums in the country, and is internationally known for presenting pivotal and landmark work by artists recognized as the most important of the 20th and 21st centuries. CAMH's mandate is to be present, to connect artists and audiences through the urgent issues of our time, and to adventurously promote the catalytic possibilities of contemporary art. CAMH's programming, both in and beyond the Museum, is presented free to the public, and advocates for artists' essential role in society.

Support

Tomashi Jackson: Across the Universe is made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to CAMH's Major Exhibition Fund: Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Jereann Chaney, Louise Jamail, Sissy and Denny Kempner, Dillon Kyle and Sam Lasseter, Cabrina and Steven Owsley, Elisa and Cris Pye, Beverly and Howard Robinson, Anonymous, and Mary Ann and F. Carrington Weems Foundation.

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is funded in part by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

CAMH Mission

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally.

General Information

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, in the heart of Houston's Museum District.

Hours

Wed 11AM–6PM
Thu 11AM–9PM
Fri 11AM–6PM
Sat 11AM–6PM
Sun 11AM–6PM

Admission is always free. For more information, visit CAMH.ORG or call 713.284.8250.



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