

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART



MEDIA ALERT: Tavares Strachan's Immersive Exhibition at the Blanton Uplifts Hidden Histories

What: A solo exhibition from Bahamian conceptual artist Tavares Strachan opens this month at the Blanton Museum of Art. Titled *Tavares Strachan: Between Me and You*, the exhibition is the thirteenth Contemporary Project in the museum's innovative series showcasing new and recent works by contemporary artists. For his Contemporary Project, Strachan invites museum visitors to consider how history is recorded and what kind of cultural knowledge is legitimized.

The Blanton's Contemporary Project gallery will be transformed into a meadow of dried rice grass, which takes the shape of the West African Adinkra symbol of impermanence. The rice grass meadow alludes to the complex history of the grain as a universal staple across cultures. At the center of the meadow is a large totemic sculpture of stacked objects that reference the Jamaican political activist and leader of the Pan-African movement, Marcus Garvey.

Tavares Strachan: Between Me and You also expands into the Blanton's European art galleries, where three sculptures from his *Black Madonna* series will be on view. Each of the sculptures takes the form of a *Pietà* by Renaissance artist Michelangelo, in which Mary holds the crucified body of Jesus. Strachan's bronze versions depict important Black men from world history who were silenced, held by their mothers.

The multi-gallery exhibition is connected to Strachan's ongoing conceptual project *The Encyclopedia of Invisibility*. This 4,000-page work documents the people, events, and ideas left out of the Encyclopedia Britannica and history books. A pocket guide to the encyclopedia will be on view at the Blanton.

When: *Tavares Strachan: Between Me and You* is on view November 9, 2024–June 1, 2025.

Tavares Strachan: Between Me and You is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art. Support for this exhibition at the Blanton is provided by a partnership between the Ford Foundation and Austin City Art Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Additional support is provided by David and Ellen Berman.

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Featured image:

Tavares Strachan, *Encyclopedia of Invisibility (Pocket Guide)*, 2024, leather, gilding, archival paper, lucite box and stand, overall: 9 1/4 x 12 1/8 x 10 in., edition of 250, courtesy of the Artist and Marian Goodman Gallery (photo: Elon Schoenolz)

About the Blanton Museum of Art:

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.