

REGEN PROJECTS

Libbey, Peter. "Theaster Gates to Join Colby College Institute." The New York Times (April 5, 2018)
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The New York Times



THEASTER GATES STUDIO

ment, Mr. Gates will remain a professor and adviser at the University of Chicago.

Mr. Gates is optimistic about his time in Maine, saying, "I have a feeling that I'm going to make some of the best art of my life."

PETER LIBBEY

research center.

"I said yes because I was really just excited to be in a place where things are quiet, where I could actually not be distracted by the big city," Mr. Gates, above, said in an interview.

"I think that sometimes the challenge is that, as a black artist or as an artist who works in the city or someone who has a public practice, it's hard to take off the public profile," he added. "If the art practice is going to continue to grow, I need time to retreat and so one of the things that I'm excited about is that I get a chance to retreat."

In 2017, Mr. Gates did a four-day residency at the Lunder Institute. When asked about being a black artist in a predominantly white state, he said: "There's a part of me that understands that one of the truths of Maine is that this area where I'm going to be is white. It doesn't bother me because I'm not going there looking for blackness. I'm going there looking for rest."

Sharon Corwin, the director and chief curator of the Colby College museum, said that Mr. Gates would "be a major part of the creative and intellectual generative energy of the Lunder Institute."

"He will be organizing convenings of artists and thinkers over the summer," she added. "He will be helping us think about other artists to bring."

Mr. Gates's appointment will run for three years and will culminate in an exhibition of his work at the Colby College museum in 2021. During his appoint-

Theaster Gates to Join Colby College Institute

Theaster Gates, a Chicago artist known for his engagement with urban issues, is coming to Waterville, Me., a city with a population of roughly 16,000.

Colby College announced Wednesday that Mr. Gates has been appointed the first distinguished visiting artist and director of artist initiatives at the Colby Museum of Art's Lunder Institute for American Art, a