

AndersonRanch arts center

ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES

TITUS KAPHAR AS INTERNATIONAL ARTIST HONOREE

KAPHAR'S FILM ADAPTATION "EXHIBITING FORGIVENESS" FEATURING ACTOR ANDRÉ HOLLAND TO BE SCREENED FOR FIRST TIME IN ASPEN



Titus Kaphar, Photo by Mario Sorrenti, courtesy of Titus Kaphar Studio

Aspen/Snowmass, CO (February 26, 2025) — Anderson Ranch Arts Center, a premier destination for art making and critical dialogue in the contemporary art world announces **Titus Kaphar** as the recipient of its **2025 International Artist Award**. Recognized for his groundbreaking contributions to contemporary art and for addressing critical social and cultural issues through painting, sculpture, and film, Kaphar joins an esteemed roster of previous honorees celebrated by Anderson Ranch each year.

This award is given to globally recognized artists who demonstrate the highest level of artistic achievement and whose careers have fundamentally influenced contemporary art. As the 27th honoree, Kaphar joins illustrious past recipients, including Charles Gaines (2024), Christian Marclay (2023), Yinka Shonibare CBE (2022), Simone Leigh (2021), Nick Cave (2019), Ai Weiwei (2018), Wangechi Mutu (2017), Carrie Mae Weems (2016), Frank Stella (2015), Theaster Gates (2014), and Bill Viola (2013). Almost a decade since Kaphar participated in the 2016 Summer Series, the artist will return to Anderson Ranch as the first speaker in this year's lineup.

“Art has an unparalleled power to stir dialogue and prompt reflection,” explains Anderson Ranch Arts Center President and CEO, Peter Waanders. “Titus Kaphar’s work does precisely that by confronting the complexities of race, identity, family, and community. We are honored to welcome him to the Ranch and to spotlight his influential practice.”



(L) Titus Kaphar, *From a Tropical Space* (2019) photo by Robert McKeever, courtesy Gagolian Gallery;
(R) Titus Kaphar, *Do you remember Douglas Street?* (2023), photo by Jeff McLane, courtesy Gagolian Gallery

CULTURED Magazine Founder and Editor-in-Chief Sarah Harrelson returns for her second year as Creative Director of Anderson Ranch Arts Center's **2025 Summer Series: Featured Artists and Conversations Program**. She has selected Kaphar to inaugurate the series and participate in a range of public and private events in Aspen. Harrelson's extensive experience in the art world and her longstanding support of the Ranch ensure a compelling lineup for this year's program. Harrelson served as a former member of the Board of Trustees and a National Council member, and continues her role as ambassador to promote the Ranch's place in the local, national, and global contemporary art world.

Kaphar is renowned for work that challenges conventional representations of power, recontextualizes historical narratives, and compels viewers to rethink the social systems shaping our communities. Among his most notable projects is *Analogous Colors* (2020), a painting featured on the June 15, 2020, cover of *Time* magazine, accompanied by his written piece titled “I cannot sell you this painting.” This work reflects on the protests sparked by George Floyd’s murder and underscores themes of systemic injustice.

“Last summer, working with Anderson Ranch as creative director of their Summer Series, we had the honor of bringing a group of extraordinary artists and thinkers together. Against the backdrop of sublime beauty provided by Aspen’s Rocky Mountains, they allowed us to listen in on rich, intellectually challenging, and often intimate artistic conversations,” said Harrelson. “Conversation is a motor for thinking, and is at the core of what we do at *CULTURED*. This year, through a new set of dialogues, we hope to bridge generational connections between emerging talents and artistic powerhouses, and to foster engagement between artists and creatives outside of the art world. There is no one more aligned with this shared mission than the incredible Titus Kaphar, a former *CULTURED* cover star and unmatched talent. It is our great honor to recognize his work.”

In 2024, Kaphar debuted the film adaptation of *Exhibiting Forgiveness*—his directorial debut—featuring André Holland as Tarrell Rodin, a painter grappling with childhood trauma and the return of his estranged father. Written and directed by Kaphar and inspired by his own life experiences, the movie builds on the 2023 *Exhibiting Forgiveness* gallery presentation at Gagosian Beverly Hills, where a series of deeply personal paintings depicting figures, portraits, neighborhood houses, and personal artifacts were presented. These works precede the film and draw from Kaphar’s “personal, emotional and psychological well.” By blending traditional oil painting techniques with unconventional mediums, Kaphar provokes conversations about family, community, and memory.

The Jerome Project, initiated in 2011, arose from his quest to uncover, through prison records, the estranged history of his father, Jerome. His search for information led to his discovery of the records and mugshots of ninety-seven other men with the same first and last names as his father. Painted between 2014 and 2015, Kaphar created devotional-style portraits, reminiscent of Renaissance and Byzantine icons, overlaid with gold leaf and partially submerged in tar. Initially, the level of tar represented prison time, but it came to symbolize the broader consequences of incarceration, including challenges in employment, housing, and reintegration. Through this project, Kaphar compels viewers to see and acknowledge those who have been systematically silenced.

Kaphar will be recognized during **Ranch Week**, which takes place July 7-12, 2025. This week-long celebration includes a Pre-screening VIP reception followed by a public film screening of *Exhibiting Forgiveness* and Q&A with Kaphar and André Holland at Isis Theater, Aspen on Tuesday July 8; *Summer Series: Titus Kaphar in conversation with André Holland* at Anderson Ranch on Wednesday, July 9; the **Ranch Gala** and Live Auction on Thursday, July 10, and the highly anticipated **Ranch Picnic and Auction** on Saturday, July 12.

ABOUT ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER

Founded in 1966, Anderson Ranch Arts Center is a premier destination in America for art-making and critical dialogue, bringing together aspiring and internationally renowned artists to discuss and further their work in a stimulating environment. Nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado, the Ranch hosts an extensive array of workshops for emerging and established artists, children and teens in seven disciplines, including Ceramics, Digital Fabrication, Furniture Design & Woodworking, Painting & Drawing, Photography & New Media, Printmaking, and Sculpture. In addition, the Ranch hosts engaging community events throughout the year, which feature local, national and international artists and a year-round Artists-in-Residence Program, fostering artistic growth for emerging and established visual artists. For more than 50 years, Anderson Ranch Arts Center has been working to enrich lives with art, inspiration and community.

ABOUT CULTURED MAGAZINE

Launched in 2012 by founder and editor-in-chief Sarah Harrelson, *CULTURED* is a definition-defying publication that seeks to break down the borders between creative disciplines and showcase the complexities of the art ecosystem. A nationally distributed magazine in print, *CULTURED* expands its reach online, connecting with a targeted demographic of tastemakers,

artists, and collectors who engage with our platform as a 24/7 discovery vehicle. The publication has become a trusted compass for fashion, art, design, and architecture, consistently spring boarding young voices into the conversation through thought-provoking coverage. In Fall 2024, renowned art writers Johanna Fateman and John Vincler joined *CULTURED* as the magazine's distinguished Co-Chief Art Critics to launch The Critics' Table, a new subscriber-only forum devoted to art criticism which aims to give readers crucial insight into the exhibitions and artists of the moment. To learn more or read the content digitally, visit: culturedmag.com or follow @cultured_mag on Instagram.

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