



THEASTER GATES ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF DORCHESTER INDUSTRIES PROVIDING ARTISAN AND CRAFT WORKFORCE TRAINING WITH MASTER ARTISTS

Launch Coincides With 1st Anniversary Benefit and Auction For Stony Island Arts Bank, And Opening of New Installation by Glenn Ligon

Chicago, IL—November 1, 2016—Theaster Gates and his Rebuild Foundation today announced the launch of Dorchester Industries, a workforce training and apprenticeships initiative for un- or underemployed people across the South Side of Chicago. The program pairs people with Rebuild Foundation’s artists-in-residence as well as local tradespeople—from masons and general contractors to landscapers—to learn new skills as well as have direct, hands-on opportunities to create and sell new art and design objects. To kick-off the initiative, handcrafted wooden tables and ceramic dishware, created by the first generation of program participants, will be used and available for sale at the November 5th Benefit and Auction for the Stony Island Arts Bank (SIAB), the programmatic center of Rebuild Foundation. Additionally, a series of beautifully crafted and boxed Japanese-style ceramics, created by Dorchester Industries under the guidance of Koichi Ohara, a well-known contemporary Japanese ceramicist, will be included in the event auction.

A team of 8 Dorchester Industries participants have been working with Ohara, learning the art form over the last month, from the basics of working with clay to the processes involved in kiln firing and glazing. During his time in Chicago, Koichi and the team of apprentices have produced some 2000 works, from soup bowls to tea bowls, and sake pitchers and cups. For the SIAB benefit auction, 15 of these have been packed into hand-crafted wood boxes in mixed sets of five and will be available for bidding. The auction will also include works by Gates, Anselm Kiefer, Eddie Peake, and Antony Gormley, drawn from Gormley’s personal collection. Proceeds from Dorchester Industries objects will be provided to program participants, while sales of other auction artworks will support Rebuild Foundation’s exhibitions and community programs. Auction artwork is available for bidding on Paddle8 at:

<https://paddle8.com/auction/rebuild-foundation/>

Also today, Rebuild Foundation announced that the November 5th Benefit and Auction will feature a preview of Glenn Ligon’s *A Small Band* (2015) installation at SIAB. The work, which is comprised of the three words, “blues, bruise, and blood”, written in lowercase in Ligon’s signature neons, is inspired by the testimony of Daniel Hamm. Hamm was part of the “Harlem Six,” a group of young black men wrongly accused and convicted of murder in the mid-1960s. Following his release from prison, Hamm spoke out against the police brutality he experienced

while in custody, testifying “I had to, like, open the bruise up and let some of the blues...bruise blood come out to show them.”

The installation will boldly illuminate the interior of the Arts Bank—its power amplified by its physical confinement within the lobby of the building. Particularly poignant in a year rife with incidents of police violence against young African-American men, the installation offers an opportunity to engage in dialogue on identity and race, through history and into today. The installation continues the exhibitions and programming at SIAB that explore representations of the black body in art and supports Rebuild Foundation’s mission to spur community change through artistic and cultural engagement and discussion. *A Small Band* will open to the public on November 7, remaining on view through January 2017, and admission is free.

“Glenn and I have known each other for 10 years, and I have always been moved by the combination of sensitivity and power manifested in his work,” said Theaster Gates, artist and founder of Rebuild Foundation. “To me, his art is as much about his use of language, a kind of poetry, as it is about the specific media he uses to convey that poetry, and *A Small Band* is a perfect example of that approach. While neon is so typically associated with the coarseness of advertising, here Glenn has co-opted that, forcing us to consider powerful words drawn from a travesty of justice. I am tremendously grateful to Glenn for helping us bring this work to Chicago’s South Side communities, for whom these experiences often have such personal resonance. This work sets the bar for the kind of exhibition we will be doing at the Stony Island Arts Bank going forward.”

More About Dorchester Industries

Dorchester Industries is a project of Rebuild Foundation that has grown out of the nonprofit’s workforce development programs. These programs connect contractors, master craftsmen and artists with residents of Chicago’s South Side to provide training in the building trades and creative industries. Leveraging the potential of art and design to create jobs and promote ethical redevelopment in Chicago, Rebuild’s pilot workforce development programs have focused on masonry, millwork, carpentry, and pottery—crafts and trades that are also a hallmark of founder Theaster Gates’ studio practice. The objects produced through the collaborative creative process are sold under the brand Dorchester Industries, with all proceeds supporting Rebuild’s work to promote culture-based, artist-led, neighborhood-driven community revitalization.

Dorchester Industries’ began with its carpentry program, developed in part as a response to the City of Chicago’s need to find sustainable uses for trees destroyed by the emerald ash borer beetle. These locally felled trees are turned into high-quality lumber, and then into hand-crafted products. The tabletops used at the Benefit are the product of the first three months of the program, and were designed and produced by Dave Correia, Tadd Cowen, Joseph Harris, Courtney Henderson, Michael Holliman, Daniel L. Newbill, Benjamin Sahagun, Ramyar Vala, and Khris Williams.

The program highlights the underlying vision of Rebuild Foundation as well as Gates' social practice to use the arts as both a uniting force and economic driver within the South Side community—a model that in time could be replicated in other similar neighborhoods throughout the U.S. “It is unquestionably better to teach a person to do something than to do it for them, and that is the precept at the core of Dorchester Industries,” said Gates. “By providing workforce training in highly employable crafts such as carpentry or pottery work, we support the people in our community in real and tangible ways while also fostering an engagement and appreciation for a variety of artforms,” said Gates.

About Glenn Ligon

Glenn Ligon is an American artist, who examines contemporary social issues such as race, sexuality, and identity. His work brings together elements of American history and literature in a study and critique of language and visual culture. He is best known for his landmark series of text-based paintings, which draw on the writings and speech from a diverse range of individuals from throughout history, including Jean Genet, Zora Neale Hurston, Gertrude Stein, Walt Whitman, and Richard Pryor. In addition to paintings, Ligon's practice also encompasses neon, photography, sculptures, print, installation, and video.

A mid-career retrospective of Ligon's work, Glenn Ligon: America, opened at the Whitney Museum of American Art in March 2011 and traveled nationally, and his work has been shown at museums, galleries, and fairs throughout the U.S. and abroad. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University in 1982, and attended the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in 1985. He lives and works in New York.

About Paddle8

Paddle8 and Auctionata are the leading marketplaces for art and luxury collectibles worldwide. Breaking down many of the traditional barriers to art dealing and collecting, the platforms offer both veteran and novice collectors a seamless online process to discover, sell and purchase art works, furniture, jewelry and luxury collectibles through time-based, livestream and charity auctions, as well as private sales. Since their merger in May 2016, Paddle8 and Auctionata have joined forces to create the global destination of choice for the 21st century collector. With combined sales of over \$150M and nearly 800,000 registered users, the joint company is one of the top 10 auction houses worldwide outside of China and a dominant player for art and luxury collectibles in the most important markets globally. Visit Paddle8.com and Auctionata.com.

About Rebuild Foundation

Founded in 2010, Rebuild Foundation is the brainchild of Chicago-based artist Theaster Gates. While living in the Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, Gates began to renovate vacant homes on the 6900 block of South Dorchester Avenue. He has since restored a 32-unit public housing complex, a former Anheuser Busch warehouse, and the

historic Stony Island Art Bank. Rebuild was founded as a catalyst and driver for community revitalization, reactivating and reimagining once abandoned buildings with artist-led projects and programs. Rebuild Foundation leverages the power of art to inspire discourse and community engagement to create healthy and vibrant neighborhoods.

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