

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tyree Guyton

I AIN'T PLAYIN

OPENING THURSDAY, MARCH 30th, 6-8 PM
March 30 – May 13, 2023

For this immersive installation Tyree Guyton has transformed the gallery space into a specific subset of the original Detroit neighborhood that he has developed and cared for over the past (nearly) 40 years. Guyton produces work through the divination of a spiritual world, in service of a broader community. He allows his collected objects to speak to him, after which point, he works to create new assemblages and paintings that speak back to his world.

The Heidelberg Project, initiated by Guyton in 1986, is a living testament to the artist's own biography and to the neighborhood that he grew up in. Located in Detroit's McDougall-Hunt enclave, Guyton's two block strip of Heidelberg Street has been aptly characterized as an "open-air museum," and is largely composed of polka dots, painted faces, children's toys, car parts, clocks, and assemblage sculptures. Homes are repainted with vibrant colors and forms, after which Guyton adds miscellaneous objects directly on top. Heidelberg's lawns are likewise populated by similar artifacts. The public's ongoing engagement with the project is of reciprocal and transformative value, as the urban environment attests to the truism that art can really be anywhere and anything.

Martos Gallery thus functions as a platform for the artist to transmute his characteristic energies in a New York context. Two walls are reconfigured as home exteriors, decorated with records on one side and stuffed animals on the other, the latter specifically recalling Heidelberg's Party Animal House. The gallery's back wall bears a trio of record-bearing trees, set beyond a bench packed with miscellaneous painted bricks and sundry objects. New Yorkers are thus offered a microcosm of Guyton's expansive worldview, seeing his mind's eye reverberating throughout the space.

Tyree Guyton (b. 1955 Detroit, MI) studied at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan; he received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Art from the College of Creative Studies in 2009, and an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in 2016. He currently lives and works in Detroit, MI.

Select exhibitions include: "Love, Sam," Martos Gallery, New York, NY (2019); "2+2=8: Thirty Years of Heidelberg", MOCAD, Detroit, MI (2018); "Paradise", Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2018); NADA Miami, FL (2018); "What Time Is It? Tyree Guyton, New Work", Gallery DAAS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2015); "Spirit", Inner State Gallery, Detroit, MI (2014); and "Faces of God on Fire", Cue Foundation, New York, NY (2013)

Select public collections include: the Detroit Institute of Arts, MI; University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI; Perez Museum, Miami FL; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.