

# FORT GANSEVOORT

# artnet

## Here Are the 150 Artists Making Billboards for Every US State as Part of Hank Willis Thomas's Midterm Election Project

Marilyn Minter, Rashid Johnson, Tania Bruguera, and Theaster Gates are among the participants.

Henri Neuendorf - October 9, 2018



For Freedoms, the political action committee co-founded by artist Hank Willis Thomas, unveiled today the artists in its landmark “50 State Initiative.” More than 300 artists, including J.R., [Marilyn Minter](#), Rashid Johnson, Tania Bruguera, and Theaster Gates have designed billboards that encourage political participation, and which will be erected in each of America’s 50 states ahead of the November midterm congressional elections.

“The ‘50 State Initiative’ can change the political landscape by inspiring more people to participate in civic life and broadening the concept of what democratic participation looks like,” the project’s producer, Miriam Fogelson, told artnet News.

Artists were free to depict whatever they wanted on their billboards, according to For Freedoms co-founder Eric Gottesman. “We built For Freedoms as a platform for these artists’ voices,” he said. “There were no guidelines as the basis of this project is embracing artists’ creativity as a means of inspiring civic dialogue and participation—it’s about what they had to say.”

To realize the hugely ambitious project, For Freedoms partnered with more than 200 American art organizations, from grassroots art centers to major museums, and even international groups. The organization tried “to match the artist’s vision and message to location and issue,” said For Freedoms political advisor Mark Skidmore in an email. For example, Muslim artist Jamila El

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Sahili's billboard, *Human Being*, is going up in Lansing, Michigan, where the first Muslim woman could be elected to congress.

Skidmore says that the organization isn't affiliated with either political party, and in fact describes itself as "anti-partisan." But although the current political landscape remains one of the most partisan eras in American political history, Fogelson hopes the initiative succeeds by taking a less common approach. "For Freedoms aims to make civic engagement more inclusive of people who have felt excluded from, or disinterested in, traditional political processes," she said.

*See the full list of artist billboards by state below:*

## ARIZONA

**JR, *Migrants, Mayra, Picnic across the border, Tecate, Mexico – U.S.A., 2017***

I-10 & Vicksburg Rd, Phoenix

## ARKANSAS

**Zoë Buckman, *Inaction is Apathy***

S Walton Blvd & SW 12th St, Bentonville

## ARKANSAS

**Marilyn Minter, *SAD***

US 70 & N Alexander Rd, Little Rock

## CALIFORNIA

**Paula Crown, *Hurt People Hurt People***

Crenshaw Blvd & W 59th Pl, Los Angeles CALIFORNIA

**Rashid Johnson, *Untitled Anxious Men***

S La Brea Ave & W 1st St, Los Angeles

## COLORADO

**Susan Meiselas, *2:00 a.m. Arrest and documentation of twelve-year-old boy, Imperial Beach, CA, 1989***

Federal Blvd & W Irving Pl, Denver

## CONNECTICUT

**Trevor Paglen, *Nov 6th, 2018.***

US-6 & Pope Park Hwy, Hartford

## DELAWARE

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**Ken Gonzales Day, *Untitled, 2011, featuring Bust of A Young Man, Antico (Pier Jacopo Alari-Bonacolsi), and Bust of a Man, Francis Harwood***

Old Airport Rd & Delaware Turnpike, Wilmington DISTRICT OF

**COLUMBIA**

**Edgar Arceneaux, *Hopelessness Freeze Time***

Anderson, Letts, and McCabe Halls at the American University, Washington

**FLORIDA**

**Derrick Adams, *Ode to Bayard Rustin***

NW 79th St & NW 5th Ave, Miami

**FLORIDA**

**Carrie Mae Weems, *Continue to Dream***

Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami **FLORIDA**

**Trevor Paglen, *Nov 6th, 2018***

Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami

**FLORIDA**

**Stuart Sheldon, *The Best Words***

Student Union / Bookstore, Florida International University, Miami

**FLORIDA**

**Stuart Sheldon, *The Best Words***

US Century Bank Area, Florida International University, Miami

**FLORIDA**

**Jamila El Sahili, *I Love You***

Teaching Academy / Welcome Center, University of Central Florida, Orlando

**FLORIDA**

**Jamila El Sahili, *I Love You***

Health Center, University of Central Florida, Orlando

**FLORIDA**

**Carrie Mae Weems, *Continue to Dream***

The Ringling Museum, Sarasota

**FLORIDA**

**Shaun Leonardo, *Trayvon Martin***

W Tennessee St & Aster Lake Blvd, Tallahassee

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## GEORGIA

**Awol Erizku, *Make America Panther Again***

I-85 & E 10th St, Atlanta

## IDAHO

**Emily Hanako Momohara, *Family Incarceration: Never Again is Now***

HWY 20 & E Gowen Rd, Boise

**Paula Crown, *Thoughts & Prayers***

W Jackson Blvd & S Jefferson St, Chicago

## ILLINOIS

**Paula Crown, *Thoughts & Prayers***

E Illinois S & N State St, Chicago

## ILLINOIS

**Cheryl Pope, *Lines Can't Be Drawn In The Middle***

Student Center East, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago

## ILLINOIS

**Cheryl Pope, *Lines Can't Be Drawn In The Middle***

University Hall, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago

## ILLINOIS

**Wendy Ewald, *Christian***

W Eldorado St & N Fairview Ave, Decatur

## ILLINOIS

**Tomashi Jackson, *Alteronce in Hannah (Oliver Brown, et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, et al.)***

Illinois St & North Street, Normal

## INDIANA

**Theaster Gates, *Where Black Power Lives***

Indiana Toll Rd & Calumet Ave, Gary

## INDIANA

**Jesse Williams, *That's All Folks!***

Pendleton Pike & Geneva Ave, Indianapolis

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## IOWA

**Four Freedoms, *Four Freedoms***

IA-28 & SW Leland Ave, Des Moines

## KANSAS

**Four Freedoms, *Four Freedoms***

KS-4 & SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka KENTUCKY

**Donald Moffett, *Think Science***

New Circle Rd & Georgetown St, Lexington

## KENTUCKY

**Ebony G. Patterson, *untitled ( ...he was 12)***

167 W. Main Street, Lexington

## KENTUCKY

**Titus Kaphar, *Behind the Myth of Benevolence***

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Expy & Preston Hwy, Louisville

## LOUISIANA

**Four Freedoms, *Four Freedoms***

Hwy 90 & Seven Oaks Blvd, New Orleans

## MAINE

**Christopher Myers, *Mayflowers***

Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland

## MARYLAND

**Shinique Smith, *Portrait of Shinique as a Bundle on Rodeo Beach (3 Months Before Cosco Oil Spill), 2007***

Coppin State University, Baltimore

## MARYLAND

**Natalie White, *Equal Means Equal***

Mt Savage Rd NW & Homewood St NW, Cumberland MASSACHUSETTS

**David Birkin and Mariam Ghani, *System Failure***

Location Pending, Boston

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Vincent Valdez, *Dream Baby Dream***

MASS MoCA, North Adams

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## MASSACHUSETTS

**Lorraine O'Grady, *Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are***

I-91 & Plainfield St, Springfield

## MICHIGAN

**Sam Durant, *Poder***

Cass & Amsterdam NW, Detroit

## MICHIGAN

**Jamila El Sahili, *Human Being***

Lansing Rd & Pinch Hwy, Lansing MINNESOTA

**Michael Rakowitz, *Ahlan Wa Sahlan***

I-94 & Co Rd 186, St Paul

## MISSISSIPPI

**Jessica Ingram, *Vote for Vernon Dahmer, 2018***

Hwy 220 & Medgar Evers Blvd, Jackson

## MISSOURI

**Christine Sun Kim, *Words Shape Reality***

Hwy 54 & Jefferson Rd, Jefferson City

## MISSOURI

**Jeremy Dean, *InDivisible***

Hwy 35 & Terrace St, St. Louis

## MISSOURI

**Jeremy Dean, *Hummer Stagecoach***

Hwy 35 & Terrace St, St. Louis

## MONTANA

**Fred Tomaselli, *I've Fallen***

Hwy 15 & Pinecrest Rd, Helena

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## NEBRASKA

**Jim Goldberg, *It's Mourning In America***

Cornhusker Hwy & N 48th St, Lincoln

## NEVADA

**Cristina Velazquez, *No Soy Tu Mamacita***

W Charleston Blvd & S Decatur Blvd, Las Vegas

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Paola Mendoza and Kisha Bari, *I Am A Child***

N Main St & Ten Rod Rd, Rochester

## NEW JERSEY

**William Scott and David Byrne, *Untitled***

Bloomfield Ave & N 12th St, Newark

## NEW JERSEY

**Wangechi Mutu, *AFRICA'SOUT!***

US Hwy 1 & Muirhead Ave, Trenton

## NEW MEXICO

**Richard Misrach, *Romans 13:10***

CanAM Hwy & El Suspiro Ct, Las Cruces

## NEW YORK

**Suzanne Lacy, *ONE/US***

Crosstown Connection & Albany St, Albany

## NEW YORK

**Carrie Mae Weems, *One Choice***

E Brighton Ave & Ainsley Dr, Syracuse

## NEW YORK

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**Eric Gottesman, *Where Do We Go From Here?***

E Brighton Ave & Ainsley Dr, Syracuse

## NEW YORK

**Hank Willis Thomas, *Us Is Them***

E Brighton Ave & Ainsley Dr, Syracuse

## NEW YORK

**Lightwork, *Be Strong And Do Not Betray Your Soul***

E Brighton Ave & Ainsley Dr, Syracuse

## NEW YORK

**Zoe Buckman, *Grab Em By The Ballots***

E Brighton Ave & Ainsley Dr, Syracuse **NORTH**

## CAROLINA

**Stacey L. Kirby, *Yo Soy Válida***

Durham Fwy & Ellis Rd, Durham

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jeffrey Gibson, *THIS STORY HASN'T BEEN WRITTEN YET***

I-95 & Red Oak Brattleboro Rd, Raleigh

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Muna Malik, *Exodus 22:21***

Auxillary Services Parking Lot 16, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Travis Somerville, *Nevermind, 2016***

Bluford St. Campus Rec. Center, NC AT&T State University, Greensboro

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**Travis Somerville, *Nevermind, 2016***

Laurel St and E. Market St, NC AT&T State University, Greensboro

## NORTH DAKOTA



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**Prune Nourry, << River Man >>**

Rotating through several billboards in the city, Fargo

## OHIO

**Emily Hanako Momohara, *Child Imprisonment: Never Again is Now***

I-75 & Vine St, Cincinnati

## OHIO

**Michelangelo Lovelace, *Glory***

Dublin Rd & Grandview Ave, Columbus

## OKLAHOMA

**Guerrilla Girls, *Dear Boss, No Wonder You Don't Pay Us A Living Wage***

US 77 & NW 59th St, Oklahoma City

## OKLAHOMA

**Justin Brice Guariglia, *We Are The Asteroid***

I-40 & S May Ave, Oklahoma City

## OREGON

**Carrie Mae Weems, *To Dream***

Portland Art Museum, Portland

## OREGON

**Trevor Paglen, *Nov 6th, 2018***

1219 SW Park Ave, Portland

## OREGON

**Emily Jacir, *Translate Allah***

Lancaster Dr SE & State St, Salem PENNSYLVANIA

**Mitch Epstein, *The Common Air***

I-83 & S Front St, Harrisburg

## PENNSYLVANIA

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**Anonymous, *Me Pardon Me***

I-96 & Linden Ave, Philadelphia

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Anonymous, *Pardon Me***

I-95 & Linden Ave, Philadelphia

## RHODE ISLAND

**Tuan Nguyen, *Not Spaceship Earth***

I-95 & Concord St, Providence

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Dustin Yellin, *HERE COMES THE SEA...Anthropogenic Climate Change and the future of our species***

St Andrews Rd & Piney Grove Rd, Columbia

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Xaviera Simmons, *Freedom Is Not Guaranteed (TBC)***

8th Ave NE, Aberdeen

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**Xaviera Simmons, *Freedom Is Not Guaranteed (TBC)***

8th Ave NE & N Roosevelt St, Aberdeen

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Sol Guy, *We Are All Related***

I-90 & Sidney Stage Rd, Pierre/Rapid City

## TENNESSEE

**Ahron Weiner, *Buttheads***

8th Street, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville

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**Ahron Weiner, *Buttheads***

West Ave & Hand Village Ave, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville

## TENNESSEE

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**Sadie Barnette, *Some Space***

Gallatin Pike S & E Due W Ave, Nashville

## TENNESSEE

**Hank Willis Thomas, *Love Over Rules***

I-24 & Cowan St, Nashville

## TEXAS

**Alfredo Jaar, *A Logo For America***

N Interstate 35 Frontage Rd & Sonterra Blvd, Austin

## UTAH

**Richard Renaldi, *Who Are We***

S Shurtz Canyon Dr, Cedar City

## Vermont

**Luis Jacob, *Land Acknowledgement***

## VCFA

East State and West Streets **VIRGINIA**

**Joy Sela, *We Mirror***

Hampton Roads Dorm, George Mason University, Fairfax

## VIRGINIA

**Joy Sela, *We Mirror***

Eastern Shore Dorm, George Mason University, Fairfax

## VIRGINIA

**Equal Justice Initiative, *Presence of Justice***

I-95 & Bellemeade Rd, Richmond

## WASHINGTON

**Wyatt Gallery, *An Expensive Hoax***

Martin Way E & Chehalis Western Trail, Olympia

## WEST VIRGINIA

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**Sanford Biggers, *Just Us***

MacCorkle Ave SE & West Virginia Turnpike, Charleston

## WISCONSIN

**Gordon Parks, *I Am You***

Beltline Hwy & Marsh Rd, Madison

## WYOMING

**Paula Crown, *Thoughts & Prayers***

Interstate 80 Service Rd & E Pershing Blvd, Cheyenne