



The Fabric Workshop
and Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Extended Through October 22, 2023: *Henry Taylor: Nothing Change, Nothing Strange* at Philadelphia's Fabric Workshop and Museum



© Henry Taylor, in collaboration with The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia. *Nothing Change, Nothing Strange*, 2023. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth. Photo credit: Carlos Avendaño.

Philadelphia, PA, May 2, 2023 — **The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM)** is pleased to announce the extension of *Henry Taylor: Nothing Change, Nothing Strange* through October 22, 2023. The result of an 18-month residency, the exhibition features an immersive sculptural environment that Taylor created through his continued exploration of painting and sculpture alongside his first experimentation with textiles.

Nothing Change, Nothing Strange exemplifies many of the themes that run through Taylor's practice and investigates the boundaries that have historically divided painting and sculpture. During his residency, Taylor collaborated with the FWM studio team to assemble materials sourced from the Recycled Artists in Residency program (RAIR)—a non-profit organization focusing on the intersection of art, industry, and waste. Dissecting, merging, and mending these recycled materials has enabled Taylor

to forge a previously uncharted avenue in his ever-expanding artistic process. In *Nothing Change, Nothing Strange*, Taylor considers the signifying potential of color and pattern, the complexity and parameters of space, and the historical persistence of oppression—illustrated by the exhibition’s very title.

“Henry has wholeheartedly embraced The Fabric Workshop’s ethos of collaboration and experimentation,” says DJ Hellerman, FWM’s Chief Curator & Director of Curatorial Affairs. “His incredible energy and willingness to open his process has resulted in an exhibition unlike any other in the history of his career as it digs deep into Henry’s thinking process and relationship with the politics embedded in material culture.”

During Taylor’s residency, FWM’s studio team custom-built an enormous loom for the artist to weave found objects. Using warp and weft—the two elemental components of weaving that allow thread to become fabric—as both literal and conceptual devices, Taylor examines how people and materials are held together, separated, and categorized both socially and systematically. The loom, displayed in the process of creating a black-on-black tartan cloth—a pattern central to Taylor’s concept—opens the exhibition and sets the stage for his installation.



© Henry Taylor, in collaboration with The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia. *Nothing Change, Nothing Strange* (installation view) 2023. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth. Photo credit: Carlos Avendaño.

Unstretched, 30-foot billowing works draped throughout the exhibition space mark Taylor’s first foray into painting of this scale—a radical and innovative use of canvas akin to the treatment of sails, flags, and scenic backdrops. The totemic sculptures created from compressed blocks of industrial refuse such as paint buckets, vinyl home siding, and black plastic planters carry distinct material identities and

narratives as they soar into the rafters above the audience. Throughout the installation, visitors encounter the artist's deft manipulation and investigation of eclectic materials, a voracious sourcing of diverse subjects typical of Taylor's work. The exhibition opened on March 2, 2023 and will now run until October 22, 2023.

Taylor was recently the subject of a major retrospective, *Henry Taylor: B Side*, which was on view until April 30, 2023 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. The exhibition will travel to The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York later this year.

Nothing Change, Nothing Strange is organized by Chief Curator & Director of Curatorial Affairs DJ Hellerman, and Senior Project Coordinator Abby Lutz in collaboration with the artist and the FWM Studio team.

About Henry Taylor

Born in 1958 in Ventura, CA, Henry Taylor was initially exposed to the medium of painting through his father, who was a commercial painter at a naval air station. In junior high school, Taylor vigorously absorbed the major tenets of art historical discourse spanning the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries. Taylor later studied journalism, anthropology, and set design at Oxnard College where he made the acquaintance of James Jarvaise, the Head of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Jarvaise was instrumental in instilling the young painter with a sense of vocational efficacy that helped Taylor focus his efforts entirely on his artistic practice. Taylor's formal training came in the 1990s, when he studied at The California Institute of the Arts while also working as a psychiatric technician at Camarillo State Mental Hospital.

Taylor has been the subject of numerous exhibitions in the United States and internationally, including solo exhibitions at MoMA PS1, New York (2012) and The Studio Museum in Harlem (2007). His work was also presented at the Whitney Biennial (2017) and the 58th Venice Biennale (2019). Taylor's works are held in the collections of the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, among others. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

About The Fabric Workshop and Museum

The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art museum devoted to the creation, presentation, and preservation of innovative works of art. Its mission—*Collaborating with artists, revealing new possibilities*—embodies a 45-year commitment to helping artists experiment with the expressive possibilities of a broad spectrum of new materials and techniques. Through its renowned Artist-in-Residence Program, FWM provides artists at all stages of their careers with the opportunity to collaborate with its studio staff and take their work in fresh and often unexpected directions. FWM presents large-scale exhibitions, installations, and performative work, utilizing innovative fiber and other media including sculpture, installation, video, painting, photography, ceramics, and architecture. Founded in 1977, FWM brings this spirit of creative investigation and discovery to an eager audience, broadening access to art and advancing its role as a catalyst for innovation and social connection.

Related Events

Workshop

[Mending Circle](#)

Friday, May 12, 2023

5:00–7:00 pm

Bring in your stained or worn clothing and learn a variety of mending skills to reimagine and prolong the life of your garments. Participants will leave with clothing transformed by sewing, embroidery, and screenprinting techniques!

\$10 Public | \$5 FWM members

Proceeds from this event will go to Broad Street Ministries.

Workshop

[Making Art with Accumulated Materials](#)

Saturday, May 27, 2023

2:30–4:00 pm

Trash or treasure? During his visits to Philadelphia, Henry Taylor found inspiration at a construction and demolition waste management site and was able to source many materials through a partnership with RAIR (Recycled Artist in Residency). Following Henry's example, join us to glean materials and inspiration from FWM's own recycled materials archive to create assemblages and found object sculptures. Learn more about RAIR at rairphilly.org.

\$10 Public \ \$5 FWM members + students with ID

All Ages Workshop

[First Friday: Plexiglass Portraits](#)

Friday, June 2, 2023

5:00–7:00 pm

Plexiglass is a material that has been used to protect and partition; the bodies it separates are visible to one another. Exploring themes of identity, visibility, connection, and division, join us to create drawings on plexiglass with ink, then make a monoprint of the results to take home.

\$10 Public \ \$5 FWM members + students with ID

Weekly Family Workshop

[Parkway Pals](#)

Wednesdays from June 12–August 18

Sister Cities Park, 210 N. 18th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103

How can we see art in who we are, where we are, and what we already have? Inspired by *Henry Taylor: Nothing Change, Nothing Strange*, explore the resources within yourself and within your own city through printing, painting, assemblage, collage, map making, and mending with educators from FWM. We'll have a new project each week so come back again and again!

Free | Drop-ins welcome

Support

Major support for *Henry Taylor: Nothing Change, Nothing Strange* has been generously provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from Katie Adams Schaeffer and Tony Schaeffer, Hauser & Wirth and Anonymous donors.

In-kind support has been provided by RAIR (Recycled Artists in Residency) and Hauser & Wirth.

Major support of FWM is provided by the Marion Boulton “Kippy” Stroud Foundation. FWM receives state art funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Additional support is provided by Agnes Gund and the Board of Directors and Members of The Fabric Workshop and Museum.



###

Media Contacts

Max Kruger-Dull
Blue Medium, Inc.
Tel: +1-212-675-1800
max@bluemedium.com

Philadelphia-based inquiries:

Justin Rubich
FWM Communications
Tel: 215-561-8888 x224
jrubich@fabricworkshopandmuseum.org