
THE SHED **Press Release**

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING
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Summer at The Shed to Feature New Experiential, Performance, and Visual Work by Leading and Early-Career Artists and Free Community Programs

***Viola's Room*, North American premiere of Punchdrunk's newest gothic experience, June 17 to October 19**

***Diffuse Control* by Beeple, the world premiere of a new, interactive AI installation, in The Shed's Doctoroff Lobby, begins June 25**

***Open Call: Portals*, a free group exhibition of newly commissioned work by 12 NYC-based, early-career artists, June 26 to August 24**

The Zora Project by Tanya Birl-Torres and Reza Salazar explores the legacy of Zora Neale Hurston in free public workshops, May 17, June 21, and July 19

West Side Fest, a day of music by Soul Summit, food, and more as part of the neighborhood-wide arts and culture festival on The Shed's public Plaza, July 12

New York, NY, May 15, 2025 – *Summer at The Shed* offers a dynamic season showcasing new, groundbreaking artistic experiences across disciplines from leading and emerging talent. The Shed will be the summer destination for audiences seeking cutting-edge creativity and transformative encounters with the future of art, all under one roof. Minimizing barriers for audiences to access art, *Open Call: Portals*, Beeple's *Diffuse Control*, West Side Fest, and *The Zora Project* will be presented for free. Tickets are required for *Viola's Room*. More information on tickets, details, and availability at theshed.org.

“This summer, The Shed is thrilled to share new art for New York,” said **Meredith “Max” Hodges**, CEO of The Shed. “Our summer season fulfills The Shed's mission to juxtapose established and emerging artists, and to create new work across all forms of creativity. The Shed was designed to break with the traditions that separate art forms and audiences, and some of the summer's most monumental works will be presented in public spaces. From a 20-foot-tall neo-Mayan pyramid on The Shed's public Plaza - part of *Open Call: Portals* - to *Diffuse Control*, a

mesmerizing new AI- and human-powered sculptural installation in our lobby, we invite all of New York City to venture into the future of art.”

“The Shed aims to be a home for some of the most inventive, interdisciplinary art of our times,” said **Alex Poots**, Artistic Director of The Shed. “From the interactive world of Punchdrunk to Beeple's innovative exploration of the eternal possibilities of AI and art, and, now in its sixth year, the vital platform provided by our Open Call program for early-career, NYC artists, The Shed will produce and present art across formats and disciplines all summer long.”

Summer at The Shed:

- [Viola's Room created by Punchdrunk](#)

June 17 to October 19

Location: The Shed's Level 4 Gallery

Tickets start at \$49

The celebrated immersive theater company Punchdrunk, known for its genre-defying productions, will present the North American premiere of *Viola's Room*, its first new production in NYC since 2011's long-running *Sleep No More*. This intimate, audio-driven experience, narrated by **Helena Bonham Carter** and written by Booker Prize-shortlisted author **Daisy Johnson**, invites audiences to step into a dreamlike world for a one-of-a-kind Gothic adventure. For more information, visit theshed.org/violasroom

- [Diffuse Control by Beeple](#)

Beginning June 25

Location: The Shed's Doctoroff Lobby

Free

Beeple's *Diffuse Control* is a new interactive kinetic sculpture that invites users to collaborate with AI to generate never-before-seen images. Selected by a group of established and emerging curators, original artworks serve as the source images that are then reimagined by *Diffuse Control*'s AI program as users manipulate the art through an online dashboard. What evolves is a cutting-edge compromise between human and machine. For more information, visit theshed.org/beeple

- [The Zora Project](#)

May 17, 1 – 4pm; June 21, 1 – 3 pm; and July 19, 4 – 6 pm

Location: Tisch Skylights

Free

The Zora Project, by **Tanya Birl-Torres** and **Reza Salazar**, honors groundbreaking writer, cultural anthropologist, folklorist, and theater-maker Zora Neale Hurston, a key figure of the Harlem Renaissance. Three public programs will be offered - The

Anatomy of a Folktale on May 17 will explore Hurston’s folktales; *The Fire Dance: Exploring Zora Neale Hurston’s Lost Choreographic Works* on June 21 will explore movement and dance; and *Glitter in the Dust: Exploring the Work-Song Tradition* on July 19 delves into the music of her work. These workshops reveal the threads that tie Hurston’s art to our own innate creativity. The Zora Project is part of The Shed’s Social Practice Artist-in-Residence program. For more information, visit theshed.org

- [Open Call: Portals](#)
June 27 – August 24, 2025
Location: The Shed’s Level 2 Gallery and Plaza
Free with reserved ticket
Showcasing the work of 12 early-career, New York City–based artists and collectives, Open Call returns with a new, free group exhibition. *Open Call: Portals* features new works ranging from painting and film to sculpture and performance by **Zain Alam, AYDO, Mel Corchado, Marwa Eltahir, Patricia Encarnación, Laurena Finéus, Lily Honglei, Tyson Houseman, Jarrett Key, Chelsea Odufu, Victor “Marka27” Quiñonez, and Yelaine Rodriguez** and **Luis Vasquez La Roche**, each exploring forces shaping our world, including colonialism, migration, and environmental crisis. The exhibition is accompanied by a schedule of free performances and public programs. This initiative underscores The Shed’s commitment to providing a platform for rising, NYC-based talent and fostering artistic innovation. For more information, visit theshed.org/portals.
- [West Side Fest](#)
Saturday, July 12
Location: The Shed’s Plaza
Free
As part of West Side Fest, a celebration of arts and culture on the West Side of Manhattan, The Shed presents a free evening of events featuring music by **Soul Summit**, outdoor games and hydration stations provided by Topo Chico, and a selection of food and goods vendors with special giveaways throughout the day. For more information, visit westsidefest.nyc

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The creation of new work at The Shed is generously supported by the Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch Commissioning Fund and the Shed Commissioners. Major support for live productions at The Shed is provided by the Charina Endowment Fund and the Shubert Foundation, with additional support from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Generous support for projects at the vanguard of creative practice, including *Viola's Room*, is provided by the Ajay and Ritu Banga Artistic Innovation Fund.

The official headphone partner of *Viola's Room* is Bowers & Wilkins.

Beeple's *Diffuse Control* is made possible by the generous support of the Kanbas Collection. Additional support is provided by mmERCH & Colby Mugarbi, and the Ajay and Ritu Banga Artistic Innovation Fund.

Support for Open Call is generously provided by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the Howard Gilman Foundation; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Sarah Arison, in honor of Misty Copeland; and The Wescustogo Foundation.

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Under the leadership of CEO Meredith “Max” Hodges and founding Artistic Director Alex Poots, The Shed is a cultural institution of and for the 21st century. We produce and welcome innovative art and ideas, across all forms of creativity, to build a shared understanding of our rapidly changing world and a more equitable society. In our highly adaptable building on Manhattan’s west side, The Shed brings together established and emerging artists to create new work in fields ranging from pop to classical music, painting to digital media, theater to literature, and sculpture to dance. We seek opportunities to collaborate with cultural peers and community organizations, work with like-minded partners, and provide unique spaces for private events. As an independent nonprofit that values invention, equity, and generosity, we are committed to advancing art forms, addressing the urgent issues of our time, and making our work impactful, sustainable, and relevant to the local community, the cultural sector, New York City, and beyond.

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