

## **'Theater of Refusal: Black Art and Reconstitution'**

Spanning a vast continuum of disciplines, from 17th-century French philosophy to critical analyses of Victorian literature to 21<sup>st</sup>-century climate science, this ancillary compendium to the Theater of Refusal offers a portal into the intellectual terrain of the artists who participated in this groundbreaking new reprisal of the 1993 exhibition. With nearly 90 books, this quasi-library was put together by Rashid Johnson, Torkwase Dyson, Edgar Arceneaux, Kevin Beasley, Leslie Hewitt, Caroline Kent, Tony Lewis, and Rodney McMillian in dialogue with Charles Gaines and Ellen Tani. The reading room was first conceived by Gaines for the 1993 show, but its latest iteration offers a fresh perspective on the institutionalized processes that militate against decoloniality and recontextualizes the thesis of the Theater of Refusal to address the complex structures that Black artists grapple with today. By extending an invitation to an emerging group of contemporary artists with manifold theoretical investments, Gaines has carried the legacy of the reading room into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

-Benjamin Lerner

### **READING ROOM LIST:**

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