About the cover art  In her Post-Katrina series, Tameka Norris remaps the past, present, and future of New Orleans, her hometown, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In Post-Katrina Painting #4 (2009–10), Norris renders a painterly patchwork quilt of the passing and total destruction of a sunflower-colored shotgun house and its haunting, ravaged remains. Through a combination of smooth and agitated brushstrokes along with drips, splatters, and smears on a stretched, beach-colored, plaid bedsheet, Norris transforms the dislocation and alienation of a community, intimate and dear to her, into an alien landscape that also serves as a memory trace. Drawn from photographs Norris took of devastated homes along the Gulf Coast, including her grandmother’s house, Norris renders, vis-à-vis transparency sheets and an overhead projector, what she characterizes as “my version of what Katrina left behind . . . romantically depicted in an impressionistic manner. I painted in near-total darkness using only the light of the projector. Through the work I wanted to remember and remap those places so that they did not disappear” (from an interview with Jesc Bunyard, “Tameka Norris: Almost Acquaintances,” 30 January 2014, www.hungertv.com/feature/tameka-norris-almost-acquaintances).

Working across different disciplines—painting, video, photography, music, performance, and installation—Tameka Norris has exhibited and performed internationally in numerous venues, including Performa 13 in New York, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Ronchini Gallery in London, and Prospect.3 New Orleans Biennial. Her work was included in the exhibition Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art, which traveled to museums and arts centers across the country, including the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. She has a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an MFA from Yale University and currently works and lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Berlin, Germany.


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