

SHELBY HEAD

AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF SILENCE

2018



The Talk
90"x 75"x 60"
mannequin, copper flashing, liver of sulfur, brads, iron nails, wood, wallpaper, hand sewn cotton flag
2018



Dynamic Entry
40" x 186" x 1.5"
fiberglass, washers, screws
2018



Fences
75"x 68"x 19"
wood wallpaper, hand sewn dolls
2018



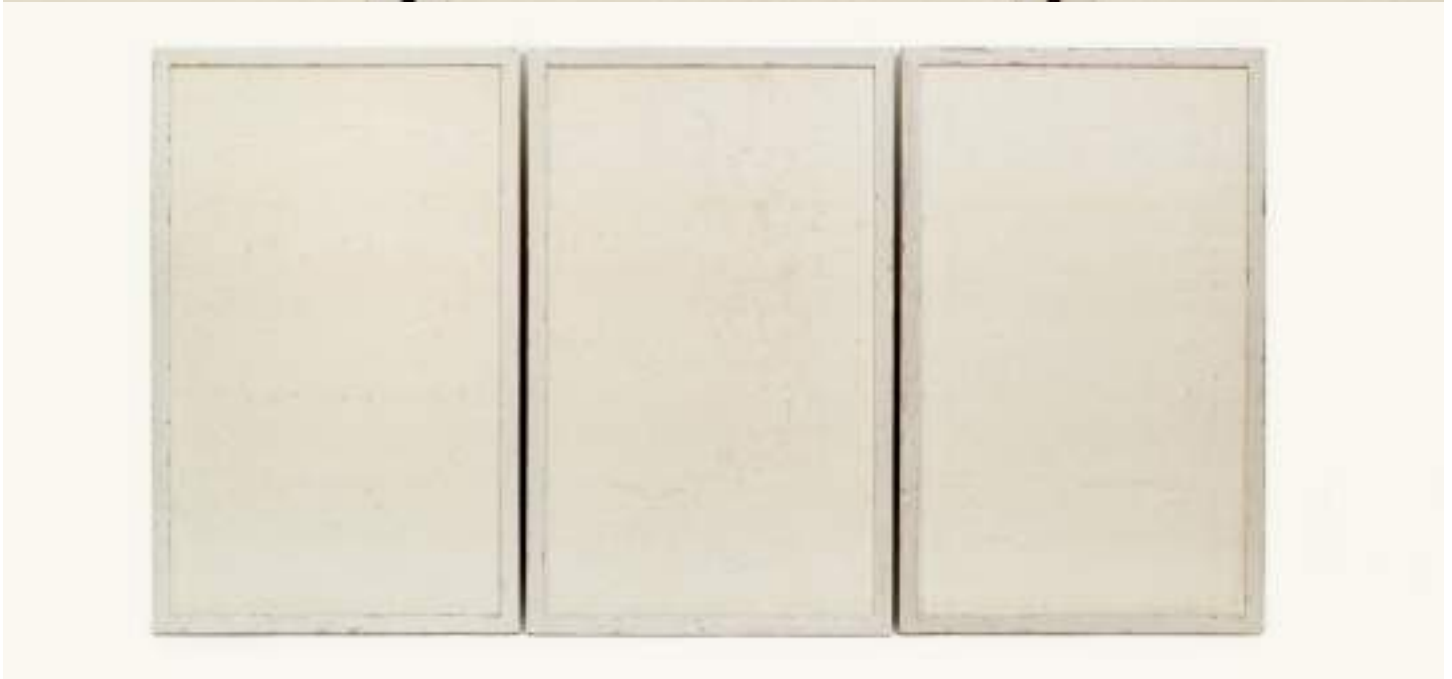
Tar Baby
36"x 50"x 66"
tires, jambalaya pot, hand sewn doll, tar,
2018



Death by a Thousand Cuts
42"x 66.5"
polystyrene insulation, wallpaper, cotton bed sheet
2018



Broken Windows
83"x 48"x 14"
wood, paper, lemon juice, window
2018



The Wall
63"x 120"
cement board
2018



The Dark Side of Things
wallpaper, 10 frames, text of racially explicit laws, regulations, policy, and government practices
dimensions vary
2018



The Flip Side of Dark Things
wallpaper the backside of 10 frames, photocopies of the artist's family
documents exposing shameful ancestral roots in the institutions of slavery
2018



The Artist's Family
18.5"x 16.5"x 2"
wallpaper frame, photocopy of a 1960 family photograph
2018

Exhibition Statement

An Infrastructure of Silence is a collection of works that confronts institutional racism in U.S. America and the interconnections of slavery, race, poverty, wealth, and segregation in the United States. As a citizen of this democracy and an artist with shameful ancestral roots in the institutions of slavery, I have a shared responsibility to help confront the divisive and persistent effects of institutionalized racism on all Americans.

The wallpaper and frames used as media throughout the collection reference my family's racist history and the historic nightmare alliance between policy, the law, the pulpit, and the press who joined forces in colonial America to deepen perceived differences between 'the races'. Racism has a lamentable staying power and continues to be used as a potent political and psychological tool in America today.

Throughout the exhibition, text is intertwined with the artwork. Using materials of association, each piece is a confrontation with racial disparities regarding wealth, housing, criminal justice and political power.