



Last year on Juneteenth, journalist and author Ta-Nehisi Coates testified at a reparations hearing before the House Judiciary Committee. In his [opening statement](#) Coates said, “We recognize our lineage as a generational trust, as inheritance, and the real dilemma posed by reparations is just that: a dilemma of inheritance. It is impossible to imagine America without the inheritance of slavery.”

His words moved and inspired Gbadebo and serve as a conceptual framework for her first solo exhibition in New York City. The works on view “grapple with concepts surrounding heredity and the evolution of memory and forgetting.”

She further explained the origins of the works in a statement about the exhibition. “As an artist I’m confronting my relationship with the color blue, Indigo, and materials cotton and rice in the context of their origins as commodities born of violence and enslavement,” said Gbadebo. “I’m interested in the whole system that produced these materials and how its memory has been treated.” **CT**

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