

Chakaia Booker

Shape Shifter



Shape Shifter, 2012

Take It Outside

Chakaia Booker (b. 1953) intended this sculpture for an outdoor setting, as she did for all the works on view in front of the museum. The openings within the spiral structure incorporate aspects of the urban setting into our visual experience of the artwork.

Take a closer look

Our understanding of outdoor sculptures like *Shape Shifter* can vary dramatically depending on weather and time of day. Such changing conditions draw attention to the diverse textures, tones, and colors of Booker's seemingly monochromatic works.

Something to talk about

Booker created *Shape Shifter* specifically for the New York Avenue Sculpture Project and named it only after it was installed. What do you think of her choice? What would you title it?

In her own words

"My work challenges the notion that tires are uniformly black. I want to encourage people to examine assumptions about color, patterns, textures, and functions.... Also, our assumptions about most subject matter, including people, their diversity, and the diversity of ideas and perceptions."

Chakaia Booker, *Shape Shifter*, 2012; Rubber tires and stainless steel, 192 x 102 x 78 inches; © Chakaia Booker, courtesy of Marlborough Gallery, New York; Photograph by Daniel Schwartz

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