

**The 2023 Beardsley Lecture  
Temple University**

**Lecture given by Paul C. Taylor  
The Barnes Foundation  
Friday April 21, 2023, 5:15pm-7:15pm  
Reception to follow**



***Folding Away the Future: Grief, Art and Renewal***

**ABSTRACT**

In a reflection on what she calls “the future of time,” Toni Morrison discusses art that responds to moments of crisis with, as she puts it, “a mourning, a requiem, a folding away of the future.” She goes on to look for redemptive possibilities in expressive culture, on the grounds that “one looks to history for the feel of time [but] one looks to art for signs of its renewal.” This lecture will look for Morrison’s signs of renewal in some contemporary culture work, beginning (and perhaps ending) with the film “Wakanda Forever” and the New Museum’s “Grief and Grievance” exhibition.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Paul C. Taylor is W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy and Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies at Vanderbilt University. He received his undergraduate training at Morehouse College and his graduate training at the Kennedy School of Government and at Rutgers University. His research focuses primarily on aesthetics, the philosophy of race, American philosophy, and Africana philosophy. His books include *Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics*, which received the 2017 monograph prize from the American Society for Aesthetics (ASA), and *Race: A Philosophical Introduction*. He has recently launched the Racial Justice Humanities Lab at Vanderbilt and currently serves as the president of the ASA.