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The floral pattern that adorns Mickalene Thomas’s Halle vase will be familiar to anyone who’s ever encountered her lush, textural portraits. The motif, which is based on a leftover remnant of upholstery from a couch that belonged to Thomas’s grandmother, frequently appears in the background of her canvases, and she knew immediately on receiving the vase that she wanted to apply the pattern to it. But the task was not as straightforward as one might think. Thomas set out to accentuate the vase’s silhouette, flattening its contours and “transforming the three-dimensional form into an image,” which required an adjustment in the scale of the familiar flowers. A joyful burst of blue and gold at the neck of the vase is set off by pristine white porcelain exposed throughout.