FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE contact: lia@participantinc.org, 646 492 4076

**Tyler Cala Williams, *Elastic Synapse***
**Curated by Executive Care***
**September 13 - October 25, 2026**
**Opening Sunday, September 13, 7-9pm**

*Elastic Synapse* is multidisciplinary artist Tyler Cala Williams' first solo exhibition, as well as their first body of oil paintings. Drawing from personal memory and diasporic visual culture, Williams' practice examines what is lost, mutated, and newly formed as images move across mediums. Consisting of oil paintings and mounted prints, this exhibition marks a shift in Williams' previous digital practice that focused on disrupting Western European surrealist works by inserting themselves or their friends as twisted thoughts into the composition. This work is more personal.

Through pixelation, moiré patterning, perspectival distortion, hyperreal rendering, and chromatic disruption, Williams destabilizes fixed notions of representation and interrogates how Black visuality circulates within contemporary image economies. By embracing slippage and material transformation, their work reanimates the Black imagination as a space of fugitivity, care, and alternative possibility.

Williams culls images in a process that feels like spiritual image mining. While gathering images, they give themself and the images permission to gravitate and speak to one another freely. Bits of photos off the internet are digitally rendered with bits of memes, photos from their own camera roll, and/or parts of magazine editorials to then be devotionally rendered into meticulous oil paintings on canvas, honoring the connection that every visual element sparked in Williams' brain and body. Like intrusive thoughts nestled in brain corners finally given a little room to roam and play with fractal memories.

**Tyler Cala Williams** is an American artist based between New York, Chicago, and New Jersey. Born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey, Williams received a BFA in Photography from Parsons School of Design at The New School in 2020. Williams has exhibited internationally, including at Wunika Mukah Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria; Balance Club Culture Festival in Leipzig, Germany; and Espace Voltaire in Paris, France; and nationally at Art Basel Miami with Jeffrey Deitch; MOCADA Brooklyn; and the Kennedy Center in Boston, Massachusetts to name a few. Their writing has appeared in publications associated with the Hammer Museum at UCLA, and their artwork has been featured in BOY.BROTHER.FRIEND, King Kong Magazine, Paper Magazine, Circus Magazine, GUT Magazine, The Face, It's Nice That, and LN-CC. In addition to their studio practice, Williams has created album artwork for recording artists such as LYZZA, Anysia KYS, and Liv.e, among others.

***Executive Care** is a curatorial agency at the service of trans and queer artists of color from performance and nightlife communities founded by writer, curator, and poet, **Isis Awad** in 2020. EC's mission is to provide early-career, underrepresented artists with access to long-term curatorial guidance, production funds, and mentorship support leading up to the public presentation of their work through exhibitions, parties, and/or publishing.

Image: **Tyler Cala Williams**, *When You Remember*, 2024, Blender, Photoshop, found photographs

Gallery hours, Wednesday – Sunday, noon-7pm

**PARTICIPANT INC** is located at 116 Elizabeth Street, floor one, between Broome and Grand Streets. The closest trains are the J/Z (Bowery) and the B/D (Grand); the closest wheelchair accessible stop is the 6 (Canal). Entry is on grade and the gallery is barrier free throughout with an all gender, wheelchair accessible bathroom. Service animals are welcome.

PARTICIPANT INC's exhibitions and public programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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