Nina Johnson

Tara Walters
Wallflower
November 10th



Tara Walters in her studio, alongside *A Dreamed New York*, 2026.
Water-based paint on muslin, charcoal, pastel, and silver leaf, 84 x 60 in. Photo by Charlie Rubin

Tara Walters: *Wallflower*
New York, on view by appointment
November 10, 2026

Nina Johnson is pleased to present *Wallflower*, an intimate presentation of new paintings by Tara Walters. Each painting acts as an amulet, preserving a moment in time and carrying a personal story through the magic of its symbols. Created following Walters' move to New York, the works bring together three landscapes that have shaped her life: rural Maryland, where she grew up riding horses; the Malibu coast, where she lived for nearly eight years; and Manhattan, where she has established a new home and studio.

The title comes from Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney's 1913 sculpture *Barbara (or Wallflower)*, which Walters discovered after performing at the Whitney Museum in August 2026. The young girl's casual, self-possessed stance offered a touchstone for the exhibition, reflecting Walters' own sense of being a wallflower, observing a world moving quickly around her.

In *A Dreamed New York*, inspired by Matisse's *The Piano Lesson*, Walters collapses interior and exterior space, pairing a radiator and gas lamp with a changing tree and the distant Empire State Building. *The Shadows of Flight* returns to Malibu, where passing airplanes cast reflections across the Pacific. Eight stars mark January 8, the day of the fire that destroyed Walters' home, in what she describes as "a sad love letter to Malibu." Elsewhere, Walters' horses, Matisse and Morisot, emerge as both portraits and dream figures, reflecting the patience and trust central to her painting practice.

Walters begins by pouring color and ink, allowing images to emerge before developing them with pastel and metallic leaf. Influenced by the Gilded Age architecture of her Upper East Side surroundings, she connects this process of conjuring images to New York's history of spiritualism.

Throughout *Wallflower*, halcyon worlds coexist with more painful realities. In preserving these moments, Walters' paintings ask us to slow down, leaving space for wonder, vulnerability, and the imagination to return.

Wallflower will be on view in Nina Johnson's private New York salon space.

ABOUT TARA WALTERS
Tara Walters (b. 1990, Washington, D.C.) holds an MFA from ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena and a BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design. Her work has been exhibited in Los Angeles, New York, Shanghai, and Venice, and is recognized for its delicate balance of surrealism and emotional resonance. Her works are held in notable institutional collections, including the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, and X Museum, Beijing.

ABOUT NINA JOHNSON
Nina Johnson is a contemporary art gallery committed to elevating exceptional artists and their work. Founded by Nina Johnson in 2007, the gallery is both a pillar of Miami's contemporary art community and an internationally recognized voice known for its wide-ranging and intuitive program. In the spring of 2024 Johnson was welcomed as a member of the Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA).

Nina Johnson's mission is to champion extraordinary artists' work while forming long-term partnerships through deep, intentional connections. The gallery's approach is artist-driven, rooted in an appreciation for historical context and the physical practice of making and exhibiting artwork. Nina Johnson has longstanding relationships with Germane Barnes, Anna Betbeze, Seth Cameron, Rob Davis, Madeline Donahue, Rochelle Feinstein, Patrick Dean Hubbell, Ficus Interfaith, Minjae Kim, Emmett Moore, Elsa Hansen Oldham, George Nelson Preston, Estefania Puerta, Anders Ruhwald, and Katie Stout. The gallery has also produced renowned exhibitions by a broad range of artists from around the world, including Terry Allen, Judy Chicago, Ann Craven, Dara Friedman, Jonas Mekas, Genesis P-Orridge, Nicole Wittenberg, and Betty Woodman, among others.

Nina Johnson is located in a four-building compound in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood, featuring a traditional exhibition space and ancillary galleries housed in a two-story converted residence designed by Charlap Hyman & Herrero. In 2026, the gallery expanded its presence to New York with an intimate, salon-style space dedicated to fostering meaningful dialogue and creating opportunities for deeper engagement with artists and their work.