

GAA GALLERY

AUTUMN WALLACE

Ode to the Mercury Thermometer

October 22, 2021 - January 8, 2022

Gaa Projects Cologne

Gaa Gallery is pleased to present *Ode to the Mercury Thermometer*, a solo exhibition of recent paintings and sculptures by Autumn Wallace. This exhibition will be Wallace's second solo exhibition with the gallery and the inaugural exhibition of Gaa Projects.

Nodding to the bygone and formerly ubiquitous household temperature teller, the works in *Ode to the Mercury Thermometer* build a narrative that explores obsolescence as a lived experience. Representing personal things, objects, spaces, and ways of being lost to time, in this exhibition, the mercury thermometer also speaks to ideas of perception and the interpersonal dynamics of truth. While the thermometer itself does not appear in Wallace's recent work, it provides the conceptual framework for the exhibition.

Wallace's new exhibition conjures images of figures twisted and entwined, circling dream states with fibrous tethers to our reality. The characters in Wallace's work are present in all their multiplicities. *Ode to the Mercury Thermometer* features Wallace's regular cast of extant characters. Among the established characters are January, 18° (also known as Sapphire), Bowman, Taskrabbit, and Wendy. Characters new to the scene include Tyrone, Pattycakes, and her shadow, Brother Bear. In the stories of these characters, shadow-selves and biomorphic shapes merge with figures and beings in transient states. Upon closer examination, one finds a through-line: an object- a candle; an article of clothing- an oven mitt, a jeweled bandana, a USPS flat rate box fashioned as a mask or maybe a helmet. Through these characters, objects, forms, textures, and colorways, multi-dimensional narratives emerge and carry through one painting to another. The narratives are intricate. Bodies flow from one state to another, between thresholds of pleasure and peril.

Rather than rendering space with clear markers of the landscape or interior structures, Wallace's recent paintings have moved into a psychological pseudo-reality where a room is built by suggestion. Space is made in the voids between bodies. Alluding to Sachplakat, interiors are created with symbols of architecture pared down to imply space. A bearskin rug with a chance for redemption. Textured flooring supersedes current interior design trends to foreground historical references to the conflict architecture of Hadrian and the history of Terrazzo flooring. Dynamic light cascades across surfaces, coming from a light source off-screen. Animate and inanimate objects both become active entities. In these collisions between bodies, objects, and architecture, the viewer becomes a participant, underscoring the tension between seer and seen.

Conceptually Wallace's work is influenced by psychologically driven theories of the self and is motivated by a broad survey of high and low brow visual culture. Deconstructing academic and theoretical understandings of experience, Wallace's paintings favor depicting lived experience in order to uplift, imagine, and realize a philosophical and semiotic aesthetic of the Black femme experience. With an ongoing engagement with the history of painting, particularly the genres of figurative and narrative art, Wallace's work undoes the perspective of the gawking Frenchman rendering bodies passive and languid. Instead, Wallace's work builds images that art history left out and creates narratives where individuals are empowered and rendered in action.

Drawing strongly from personal history, art-historical movements, and folkloric traditions, the works in *Ode to the Mercury Thermometer* cite a range of influences. From Gullah folktales to Greek mythology. Edo period paintings and woodcuts to Rococo and the Golden Age of Dutch painting. Abstract Expressionism, namely the work of Rothko to the political satire of bygone eras, Wallace uses the past to examine reoccurring elements of contemporary culture and to create narratives that have been historically omitted. In their most recent work, Wallace has also sought to incorporate archaic and obsolete forms of technology and communication to comment on obsolesce and how the things, images, and ideas around us become antiquated, consumed by, and lost to time.

Autumn Wallace (b. 1996, Philadelphia, PA) is a visual artist who examines the black femme experience and constructs of femininity and the subsequent dynamics of power, sexuality, and inexorable vulnerability. Wallace is a recent graduate of the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Recent solo exhibitions include *How to Hug Yourself: Ten Steps (with Pictures)*, Gaa Gallery, Provincetown, MA, USA; #THECONTAINERSTORE, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA, USA; #MAJORSEXUALCHEESEFETISH, Portside Art Parlor, Philadelphia, PA, USA. Wallace is the recipient of numerous fellowships, including residencies at the Bed Stuy Artist Residency, Brooklyn, NY, USA; Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA, USA; LungA School, Seyðisfjörður, Iceland; Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), North Adams, MA, USA; the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, USA; and Yaddo Saratoga Springs, NY, USA.

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Autumn Wallace

Bullseye, 2021

Acrylic, oil, pastel, and hand applied rhinestones on canvas

153 x 220 cm / 60 1/5 x 86 1/2 in

AW_044

(Sold)



Autumn Wallace

The Hand to Which You May Speak, 2021

Acrylic, oil, pastel, and hand applied rhinestones on canvas

139.5 x 100.5 cm / 55 x 39 2/3 in

AW_043

(Sold)



Autumn Wallace

Size Zero, 2020

Acrylic, oil, pastel, and hand applied rhinestones on canvas

137 x 101.5 cm / 54 x 40 in

AW_034

(Sold)



Autumn Wallace

Bearcaught, 2021

Acrylic, oil, and pastel on PVC

122 x 122 cm / 48 x 48 in

AW_035

\$ 6,000 (excl. taxes and shipping)

(On Hold)



Autumn Wallace

After 2, Before 69, 2021

Acrylic, oil, pastel and rhinestones on PVC

122 x 122 cm / 48 x 48 in

AW_036

(Sold)



Autumn Wallace
The Intrusive 'n', 2021
Acrylic, oil, pastel and gold leaf on
PVC 58.5 x 81 cm / 23 x 32 in
AW_037
(Sold)



Autumn Wallace

Flood Insurance, 2021

Acrylic, oil, and pastel on PVC with mixed media artist made frame

43 x 43 cm / 17 x 17 in

AW_038

(Sold)



Autumn Wallace

Risk Tolerance, 2021

Acrylic, oil, and pastel on PVC with mixed media artist made frame

43 x 43 cm / 17 x 17 in

AW_041

(Sold)



Autumn Wallace

If I return your love can I have your coat for the winter, 2021

Mixed media sculpture

40.5 x 37 x 35.5 cm / 16 x 14 1/2 x 14 in

AW_039

(Sold)







Autumn Wallace

Rub-a-Dub, 2021

Acrylic and pastel on wood board

35.5 x 28 cm / 14 x 11 in

AW_042

(Sold)

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AUTUMN WALLACE

BORN

1996, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Ode to the Mercury Thermometer*, Gaa Projects, Cologne, Germany
2021 *How to Hug Yourself: 10 Steps (with Pictures)*, Solo Exhibition, Gaa Gallery, Provincetown, MA, USA
2020 *#THECONTAINERSTORE*, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA, USA
2019 *#MAJORSEXUALCHEESEFETISH*, Portside Art Parlor, Philadelphia, PA, USA
How Could I Say No To You?, HOUSE Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
2018 *#SingleWithPets*, Stella Elkins Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 CLEARING, New York, NY, USA (forthcoming)
Moved Still Lives, Lauren Powell Productions, Los Angeles, CA, USA
2020 *#ShowMeTheSigns Group Show*, Blum and Poe, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Repose, Gaa Gallery, Provincetown, MA, USA
Reasonable Nomenclatures of Invisibility, PARISTEXASLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Fellows Exhibition, Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM), Provincetown, MA, USA
2019 *Group Exhibition*, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA, USA
19.5% Group Exhibition, Little Berlin, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Monsters of Advertising, Mothership Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Call and Response Book Launch and Exhibition, Our House Culture Center, Philadelphia, PA, USA
More Than That, Flaten Museum, Minneapolis, MN, USA
2018 *Bond of Knowing*, Stella Elkins Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Unknown Colors, Giovinetti Studios, Philadelphia, PA, USA
NCECA 76ers Juried Student Exhibition, NCECA 2018 Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

EDUCATION

- 2018 BFA, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia PA, USA

AWARDS + RESIDENCIES

- 2021 LungA School Residency, Iceland
Bed Stuy Artist Residency, Brooklyn, NY, USA
2020 AOK Residency, Wellfleet, MA, USA
2019 Visual Arts Fellow, Louise Bourgeois Visual Arts Fellowship, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA, USA
Barbara White Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, USA
Artist in Residence, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), North Adams, MA, USA
2018 Yaddo Residency, Sendak/Glynn Narrative Illustration Award, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA
Painted Bride Center for Art Residency, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Rudolf Staffel Award in Ceramics
J. Arthur Kluen-Kryk Award
Painting and Sculpture Intensive Award
NCECA Regina Brown Undergraduate Student Fellowship Grant
Tyler School of Art Dean's Grant for Student Research
Tyler School of Art Painting Department Juried Entry Senior Studio
2017 Yale Norfolk Intensive Art Residency, New Haven, CT, USA
Sam Spear Memorial Scholarship
Painting Intensive Fund Scholarship
Tyler School of Art Painting Department Juried Entry Senior Studio
Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship (CARAS) Grant for Student Research
Haystack/Tyler School of Art Scholarship

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Studio Museum in Harlem (pending)