**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 Textured flooring supersedes current interior design trends to foreground historical references to the conflict architecture of Hadrian and the history of Terrazzo flooring.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; #THECONTAINTERSTORE, 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.











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)



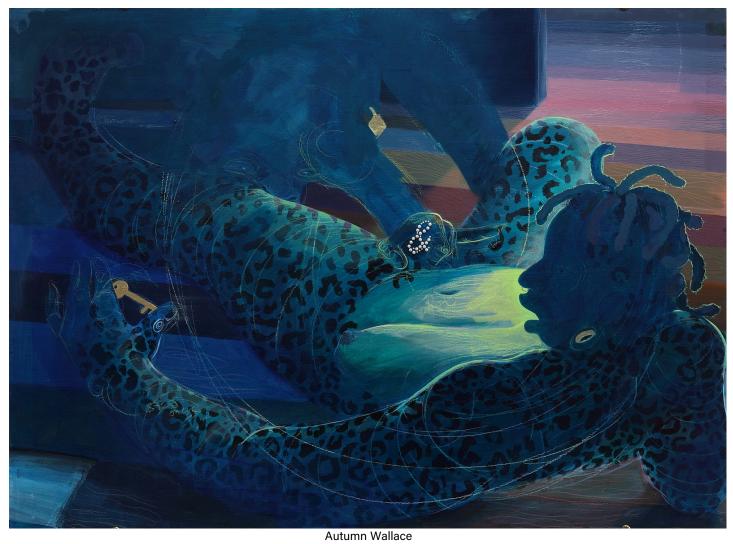
Acrylic, oil, pastel, and hand applied rhinestones on canvas 137 x 101.5 cm / 54 x 40 in AW\_034 (Sold)



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)



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  $43 \times 43$  cm /  $17 \times 17$  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

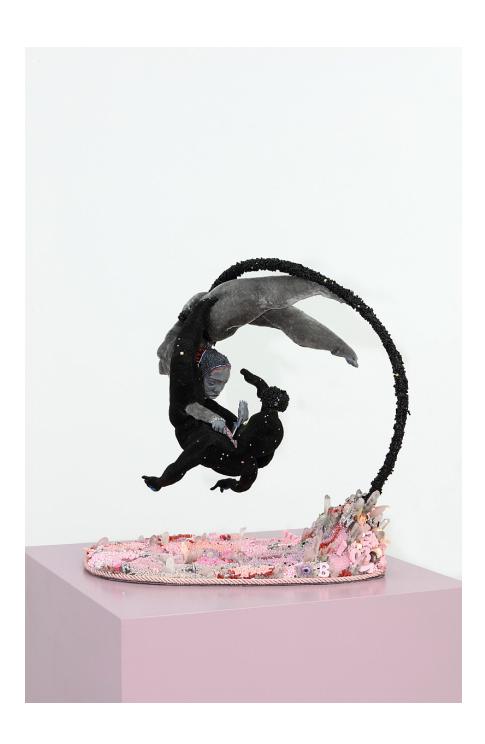
If I return your love can I have your coat for the winter, 2021

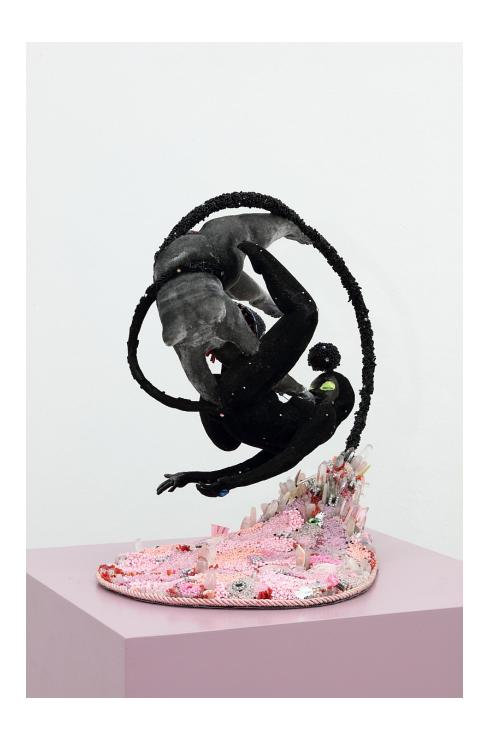
Mixed media sculpture

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)

#### **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 #THECONTAINTERSTORE, 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 Khuen-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)