

Bad Water

Center of the Universe

Sylvie Hayes-Wallace

August 5 - September 30, 2022

Center of the universe is my head - everywhere I have ever lived - the space I have rented in NYC - a maze - a rats race - exhaustion, overwhelming - getting lost and the inability to follow a thought - chaos - a jumble - living inside one's head - never ending to-do's - money worries, hypochondria, memories - getting sucked into a black hole - life insurance - 0% APR - notes to self - self-presentation - femininity, pink, purple, aqua nail polish - metal - New York City - feeling like you can't win - feeling like there is no escape - not knowing where to go - my world is different than my neighbor's - my walls are another color - my clothes look different - a big piles of papers on a desk - feeling desperate like a rodent - femininity - the female psyche - sardonic violence - a trap - a cute, comfortable room - a cute, comfortable memory - paranoia - anxiety, a train of thoughts - shiny new surfaces and worn down Dr. Scholl's - porn - body pain - trying to remember something - anti-fungus medication for my toes - birth control - toxic shock syndrome - heaviness - getting weighed down - being buried - inability to articulate - the inside - interiority - a closed container - wanting a brain transplant - exhaustion - time - precarity - falling apart - feeling fragmented and a mess - like you come off too strong - like no one can fully get it - just a sum of parts - like being too much and not perfect enough - insecurity painted over facades - disguised as pretty, attractive surfaces - feminine darkness - not knowing what to say or how to move forward - being stuck

The above text is an excerpt from the book *Center of the Universe* produced by Sylvie Hayes-Wallace and Rebecca Lothan in conjunction with the exhibition. It features texts from Sylvie Hayes-Wallace, Zoe Brezsny, Audrey Gair, Bailey Conolly, Joe Speier, Clare Suffern, Isaac Brosilow, Kelsey Isaacs, Almog Cohen-Kashi, Julie Brandano and David Walker.

Sylvie Hayes-Wallace (b. 1994, Cincinnati, OH) is an artist living and working in New York. Recent exhibitions include Bungalow at Westbeth (New York), King's Leap Fine Art (New York), Annex de Odelon (New York), Interstate Projects (New York), New Works (Chicago), MX Gallery (New York), and Bar4000 (Chicago).

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2021-2022

6.5 x 90 x 159 inches

Cardboard, foamcore, brads, corner braces, PVA, tape, photographs, photo corners, notes, calendar pages, to-do lists, grocery lists, bumper stickers, house paint, porn, computer printouts, acrylic paint, nail polish, aluminum, steel, Salonpas pain patches, expired New York State OSHA poster, tampon safety data sheets, prescription safety data sheets, Tiffany shopping bag, dollar store Burberry shopping bag, Russell Stover chocolate box, mirror, glass, paper, invoices, snake shed, snakeskin paper napkin, chocolate bar wrapper, torn pages of Jerry Saltz "How to Be an Artist", receipts, stickers, letters, envelopes, contact paper, newspaper, credit card junk mail, debt consolidation junk mail, recipes, supermarket catalog brochure, mailbox numbers, Forlini place mat, Ricola wrappers, dad's Bat Mitzvah speech, Félix González-Torres poster, label tape, Rx stickers, liability waivers, protective face mask instructions, Blink-182 lyrics, Jenny Hval lyrics, Liz Phair tour stickers, business cards, images of clothes I want, family photos, magazine perfume samples, aluminum foil, wrapping paper, cellophane, worn-down Dr. Scholl's insoles, Post-its, Google searches, 2022 cover letter, 2022 resume, how-to listicles, Frieze NY information sheets, origami paper, lumbar spine X-rays, tooth extraction guidelines, Implanon advertisement, personal thermometer, Sharpie, Metropolitan Recreation Center pool schedule, wants, fears, Ebay tissue paper, restaurant menus, Gotscheer Hall fliers, Five Star folders, planner pages, pad wrappers, dreams, eyelets, I-ching notes, notes from my landlord, Savage Fenty terms and conditions, 2021 life insurance policy terms and conditions, 2022 medication list, tampon instructions, tea kettle packaging, old lease, horoscopes, Googled medical advice, postcards, medical referrals, notes to self