

parrasch heijnen

Tala Worrell:

Phosphenes

June 10 - July 22, 2023

Tala Worrell: *Phosphenes*

Parrasch Heijnen is pleased to present *Phosphenes*, the gallery's first exhibition with Providence, RI-based artist Tala Worrell (b. 1991, New York, NY).

In a sensual experience of paint, Worrell, who is Lebanese American and was raised in Abu Dhabi, melds the graphic in a linguistic interplay with expression. The language surrounding the artist's figuration relays a constellation of meaning derived from a central point. Confined within the boundaries of the canvas, Worrell's paintings relay the interconnectivity of shape and gesture as a visual expression of emotion.

Worrell's work harmonizes disparate parts as a cohesive whole in multisensory compositions. While she paints, Worrell revolves around the canvas using the inertia of her motion in centrifugal force. The paintings evolve in an outward expansion with varying degrees of control. Each surface ripples and coagulates, as the plane continues to move and solidify. In an active process, the image makes itself in the moment, where the extended dry times are as much a part of their creation as the artist's intervention. In the large-scale work, *Balanced Load* (2023), pools of billowing forms – henna reds, grays, blacks, and violets – cascade along the right and left perimeters of the image, surrounding a vertical field of lighter-toned shapes from which drips descend in synchronized gestures.

In a process of reorientation, Worrell identifies behavioral rhythms as our bodies synchronize with the changing light of the seasons. The interconnected and cyclical nature of environmental occasions rely on a sensitivity toward the present. Each of Worrell's compositions arises from the impression of light filtered

through internal memory, in a balance of translucent and opaque media. Absorbing peripheral activity, the artist looks toward the quotidian for technical inspiration and to her environment recalling spatial experiences, charged with the temporality of light.

To further inform sensory perception through texture, Worrell uses an array of organic elements imbued with personal meaning. She scatters Arabic coffee, chia, black seeds, tea leaves, sesame seeds, za'atar, henna, rice flour, sumac, layering the material between and above thick, glossy oil and alkyd. The earth tones of these cured and ground elements contrast with the vibrant chromatic enamels and paints. Adding further depth and dimensionality, the organic matter absorbs, rather than reflects, the surrounding light and paint. The paintings in this show endure as an imprint on the mind, evolving from a gossamer of material abstraction interlaced with personal memory in visual pleasure.

Tala Worrell: Phosphenes will be on view at parrasch heijnen, 1326 S. Boyle Avenue, Los Angeles, from June 10 – July 22, 2023. An opening reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, June 10, 6-8p. Gallery staff are available to guide you through our exhibitions virtually via Zoom upon request. For more information, please contact the gallery at +1 (323) 943-9373 or info@parraschheijnen.com.



Tala Worrell

b. 1991, New York, NY

Tala Worrell received a bachelor of the arts from Brown University (Providence, RI) in 2014. In 2014-15, she was a Fellow at the ten-month-long Ashkal Alwan Home Workspace Program (Beirut, Lebanon) where she worked with resident professors Kader Attia, Walid Raad, and Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, among others; in 2015-16, she was the recipient of a nine-month-long Emerging Artists Fellowship at the Salama bint Hamdan Foundation (Abu Dhabi, UAE) established in partnership with the Rhode Island School of Design; and an Artist-in-Residence at the Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation in 2020. Worrell worked as a researcher and painting assistant for painter and filmmaker Sarah Morris from 2014-19. Worrell returned to Providence, RI in 2020 and earned an M.F.A. in Painting from Rhode Island School of Design in 2022. Worrell's works have been exhibited at Beirut Art Center (Lebanon), Warehouse 421 (Abu Dhabi, UAE), and Franklin Parrasch Gallery (New York, NY). Worrell lives and works in Rhode Island, and teaches at Brown University. Tala Worrell is represented by Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York.





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TALA WORRELL

Downburst, 2023

oil, household gloss paint, sesame seed, mirror, and black seed on canvas
59 x 59 inches





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TALA WORRELL

Picador, 2023

oil, zaatar, Arabic coffee, blackseed, sesame seed and household gloss paint on canvas

42-1/8 x 46 inches





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TALA WORRELL

Soda Water, 2023

oil, household gloss paint, black seed and rice flour on canvas

77-3/4 x 66 inches





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TALA WORRELL

Shark Bite, 2023

oil, sumac, household gloss paint, latex, and tea leaves on canvas

66 x 68-1/4 inches





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TALA WORRELL

Sub-grade, 2023

oil, household gloss paint, zaatar, and blackseed on canvas

85-1/8 x 96-1/8 inches





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TALA WORRELL

First Proof, 2023

oil, household gloss paint, and sumac on canvas

36 x 36 inches





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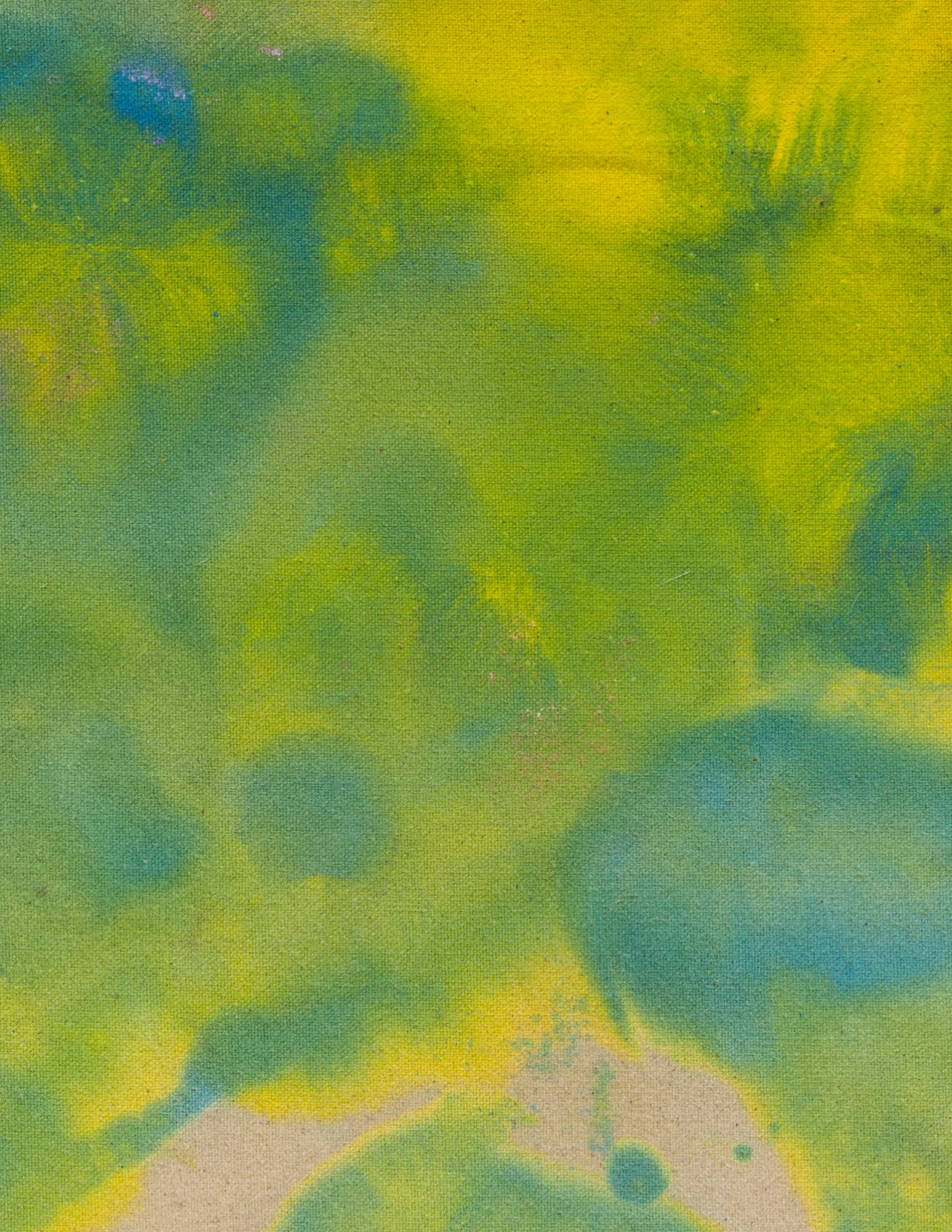
TALA WORRELL

Balanced Load, 2023

oil, household gloss paint, enamel, and henna on canvas

78-1/8 x 66-1/8 inches





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TALA WORRELL

Phase Rotation, 2023

household gloss paint on canvas

14 x 14 inches



Tala Worrell

b. 1991 in New York, NY
Lives and Works in Providence, RI

Education

2022 M.F.A., Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
2014 B.A., Brown University, Providence, RI

Residencies and Fellowships

2020 Artist-in-Residence, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2015-16 Fellow, Salama Bint Hamdan Foundation Emerging Artists Fellowship, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2014-5 Homework Space Program, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut, Lebanon

Teaching Experience

2023 Adjunct Lecturer, Brown University, Providence, RI

Select Exhibitions

2023 *Phosphenes*, parrasch heijnen, Los Angeles, CA
2022 *Tala Worrell*, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY
2022 *Warehouse 421: Speculative Links*, Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
2021 *As We Gaze Upon Her*, Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2019 *In the Spirit*, 68 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY
2018 *Letters: Fragments of a Memory*, Athr at Abu Dhabi Art
2016 *Community and Critique*, Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2015 *I Spy With My Little Eye...: A New Generation of Beirut Artists*, The Mosaic Rooms, London, UK
2014 *Exposure 6 • Under Construction*, Beirut Art Center, Beirut, LB