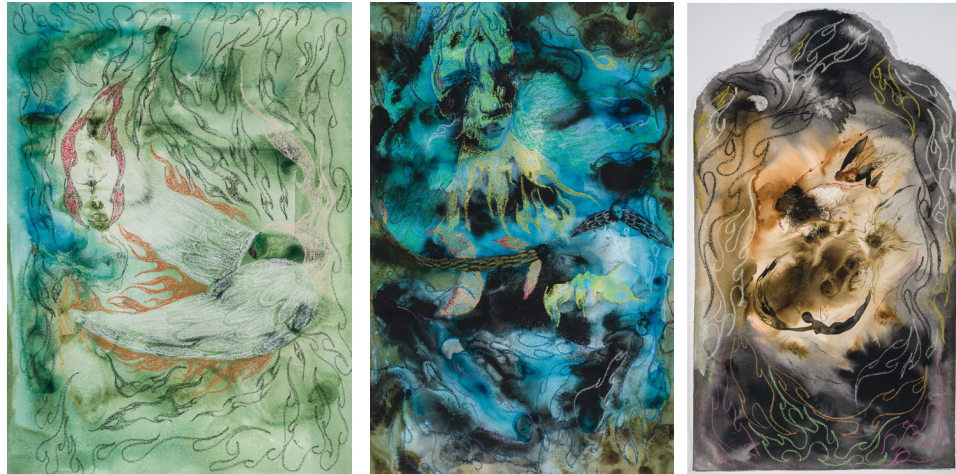


## Naudline Pierre: This Is Not All There Is June 2 – September 10, 2023



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**Free Admission**  
Wednesday-Sunday: 12 –6pm

New York, NY... Naudline Pierre harnesses the power of spiritual iconography and transcendental motifs in her layered wash drawings and richly-hued paintings to create fictional worlds rooted in a mythology of her own making. In her exhibition *This Is Not All There Is*, Pierre continues her exploration of imagined worlds, incorporating drawings large and small alongside and within sculptural elements to create an immersive environment. Organized by Chief Curator Claire Gilman, *This is Not All There Is* is the artist's first exhibition to exclusively focus on her works on paper.

Pierre mobilizes time-honored motifs such as the altar piece and other elements of ecclesiastical architecture to frame fantastical scenes of winged creatures and fiery beings. Like color and texture and composition, Pierre deploys sacred iconography as a tool to build liminal, multidimensional spaces within her drawings. Pierre views drawing as an integral part of her larger practice because of the way in which drawing solicits a back-and-forth relationship between artist and object. Pierre has described how, in contending with the paper surface and the myriad technical possibilities implicit in drawing, the artist gives up a certain degree of control. She likens paper to a living organism that both absorbs and repels, revealing, in the process, the physical work involved for an image to take root on a drawing's surface. In creating her fantastical worlds, Pierre gives form to her imagination while simultaneously laying bare the act of image-making itself.

Image, line, and color unspool at the same time in these new drawings. They are resolutely figurative, yet they approach figuration in a manner distinct from her paintings. Whereas her paintings typically begin with a figural grouping which Pierre sites within an atmospheric non-space, in her drawings, images emerge out of their grounds as though inherently connected to and separate from the space in which they appear. Pierre often begins her compositions on paper by laying down an ink ground which she then works into by alternately dropping more ink and spraying water to make the ink spread. The irregular edges of the ink simultaneously cover and reveal the white paper beneath, and semi-random marks become shapes that take form as potential hosts for images.

This process whereby an image takes hold is in evidence throughout the works on view, as rivulets of ink travel across the paper to settle into recognizable shapes like eyes, faces, and Pierre's signature wings, flames and stars. The characters depicted in Pierre's drawings come toward the viewer, surfacing from within smoky depths to take up residence on the surface of the paper so that they are both emphatically here and in a perpetual state of transition. As forms and figures strive for self-actualization—their movement and fluidity punctuated by moments of hesitation and rest—viewers are invited along on these characters' journeys and are actively encouraged to envision the possibilities of Pierre's alternate realms.

*Naudline Pierre: This Is Not All There Is* is organized by Claire Gilman, The Drawing Center's Chief Curator, with Isabella Kapur, Curatorial Associate.

#### Artist Biography

Naudline Pierre (b. 1989, Leominster, MA) received an MFA from New York Academy of Art, NY, and a BFA from Andrews University, MI. In 2021, her work was featured in Prospect.5 New Orleans and was the subject of a major solo exhibition at the Dallas Museum of Art. Pierre participated in the 2019–2020 Artist Residency program at the Studio Museum in Harlem and her work was exhibited in a three person exhibition at MoMA PS1 as a culmination of the program. Pierre has participated in numerous group exhibitions, most recently at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO; the Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL. Her work is in the collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; The Dean Collection, Macedon, NY; ICA Miami, Miami, FL; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO; Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC; Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL; and the CC Foundation, Shanghai, China.

#### Publication

The first publication to exclusively focus on Pierre's works on paper, *Naudline Pierre: This Is All There Is*, includes images of the more than thirty recent works in the exhibition, an essay by The Drawing Center's Chief Curator Claire Gilman on Pierre's world-creation practice, and a poem, dedicated to Pierre, by writer Anaïs Duplan. The publication will be available for purchase at The Drawing Center and in its online bookstore at [drawingcenter.org](http://drawingcenter.org). As with every publication produced by The Drawing Center, it will also be available to read in a digital format, free of charge.

#### Credits

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#### Images

Naudline Pierre, *In the Infinite*, 2023. Acrylic ink, charcoal, and oil pastel on paper, 48 × 24 in (121.9 × 61 cm). Courtesy of the artist © Naudline Pierre, courtesy of the artist and James Cohan, New York. Photograph by Paul Takeuchi

Naudline Pierre, *Halted Understanding*, 2023. Acrylic ink, charcoal, and oil pastel on paper, 40 × 30 in (101.6 × 76.2 cm). Courtesy of the artist © Naudline Pierre, courtesy of the artist and James Cohan, New York. Photograph by Paul Takeuchi

Naudline Pierre, *Welcome the Unknown*, 2023. Acrylic ink, charcoal, and oil pastel on paper, 40 × 30 in (101.6 × 76.2 cm). Courtesy of the artist © Naudline Pierre, courtesy of the artist and James Cohan, New York. Photograph by Paul Takeuchi