

Gaa

WITH YOURSELF

APRIL 20 - JULY 27, 2024

GAA PROJECTS COLOGNE

Gaa Gallery is pleased to present *with yourself*, a group exhibition featuring works by Melissa Brown, Andrea Joyce Heimer, Volker Hüller, Olivia Jia, Marin Majić, and Johanna Seidel. The exhibition brings together these artists whose observational and imaginative approaches to painting and material examine a breadth of topics relating to everyday narratives and the dimensionality of daily experience. From revealing the otherworldliness of the ordinary to multifaceted qualities of loneliness, belonging, and memory, the works in *with yourself* engage in a conversation about narrative, selfhood, and representation.

The works in the exhibition depict the times in which we are alone. The moments of internal dialog. The conversations we have with ourselves. The rehashing of an exchange. The state of lying down, looking up. Being there and not there at the same time. The times we are alone in transit, traveling from one place to another. They are images of moments of stillness, both eerie and calming. The moments of daydreaming, brainstorming, and playing out different scenarios and fantasies. The moments we are by ourselves and somehow still connected to other people and places. The belonging of a loved one, the memory we have of something, and the things we see when we look at a picture. They are depictions of the flickering thresholds that separate virtual, mental, and physical spaces. The spaces between the physical moments of togetherness and belonging with others and the belonging we have alone, within ourselves.

Within these works, there is a sense of solitude. Sometimes, this is in the literal absence of people, their presence felt through objects and environments depicted in varying degrees of representation and abstraction. In instances of the presence of the human figure, the subject is often looking away. They are alone amongst interior and exterior landscapes or are only seen through another interface, a reflection, or a technological device. There is a sense of the perspective of an outsider looking in, putting together the pieces of the story. They are worlds of interior spaces—dreamscapes, the stories hidden in the belongings of others, pictures stored on the cloud, the dull pangs and real threat of existential dread, the states between waking and sleeping, experience and recollection.

Melissa Brown (b. 1974, Morristown, NJ, USA) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Via a vast technical repertoire of observational and imaginative approaches to painting and material, Brown's work employs oil painting, photo-silkscreen, impasto, stencil, and airbrush techniques to examine moments of otherworldliness within ordinary experience. Her works depict phenomenological, multi-registered, and multi-temporal views of reality, where the most common of moments feel mysterious and symbolic. Examining how memory is captured and perceived in digital space versus how it is evoked within the body, Brown's work explores the ways in which the human mind and technology interface and diverge.

Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include *Windows and Bars*, Derek Eller Gallery, *Past Present Future*, Magenta Planes, and *Paper Fortune* at CANADA in New York, NY; *West Coast Paintings*, Anat Egbi, Los Angeles, CA; *Thrift Store Find*, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago IL; *Fountain*, Melissa Brown and Jamie Bull, Dodd Gallery, University of Georgia, Athens, GA; *Going AWOL*, Biggins Gallery, Auburn University, Auburn, AL; *The Journal*, Tennis Elbow, Brooklyn, NY; and internationally at Roberto Paradise, San Juan. She has participated in group exhibitions at *Everyday Moonday* Seoul, Korea; *Musée International Des Arts Modestes*, Sète, France; *Mass MoCA*, North Adams, MA; *Gaa Gallery*, Provincetown, MA; *Venus Over Manhattan*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, and *Klaus Von Nichtssagend* in New York, NY, and *Parker Gallery* and *Deitch Projects* in Los Angeles, CA. Brown received an MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT in 1999 and a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI in 1996. In 2012, she was awarded the Joan Mitchell Painter's Grant and a residency at the Joan Mitchell Center in 2019. Her work is in the permanent collections at The Whitney Museum of American Art, the New York City Department of Education, and the Fidelity Corporate Collection. She is an associate professor in art at Lehman College, City University of New York.

Andrea Joyce Heimer (b. 1981, Great Falls, Montana, USA) is an artist whose painting and drawing practice investigates the subject of loneliness—largely informed by autobiographical stories such as her own adoption—to examine how humans experience feeling alone and its connection to how and why we make art. Heimer's paintings evoke narratives where landscapes and interiors are organized into distinct rows, each portraying a different stage in the lives of her characters. Throughout her work, Heimer demonstrates an interest in origins. Her work contains a complex and imaginative use of symbolic figures referencing the Garden of Eden and Greek mythology, while also creating and recording her own history and personal mythologies. Heimer lives and works in Ferndale, Washington.

Heimer received her MFA from the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire and has held teaching appointments at Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland, OR; Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA; and Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Nino Mier Gallery, Half Gallery, and The Good Luck Gallery in Los Angeles, CA; Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY; Parlor Gallery, Asbury Park, NJ; Maxwell Colette Gallery, Chicago, IL; Nino Mier Gallery, Marfa, TX; Linda Hodges Gallery, Seattle, WA; Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA; idrawalot Collective, Berlin, Germany; and The Centre of International Contemporary Art Vancouver, BC, Canada, among others. Additionally her work has been included in group exhibitions at Nino Mier Gallery, Half Gallery, and Edlin Gallery, in New York, NY; The Museum of Craft and Design, San Francisco, CA; Bemis Center, Omaha, NE; 12.26 Gallery, Dallas, TX; Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; and Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels, Belgium; Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark. Her work has been covered in outlets including Artforum, Art in America, Huffington Post, New York Times, The New Yorker, New American Paintings, and The Wall Street Journal.

Volker Hüller (b. 1976 in Forchheim, Germany) is a Brooklyn-based artist whose fragmented compositions speak to the spaces between dreams, delirium, and daily life. Positioned in a mystical dystopia, Hüller's paintings and etchings weave together the unsteady balances of chaos and harmony, the past and the future. With careful attention to color, texture, and an experimental use of media, his work often has a mystical quality that favors absurdity over moralization.

Hüller studied under the late Norbert Schwontkowski (1949-2013) at the Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg, Germany, graduating in 2008. Recent exhibitions include L.I.T.S., GRIMM, New York, NY; Wasteland, Produzentengalerie, Hamburg, Germany; Birds, Van Doren Waxter, New York, NY; Bon Voyage, GRIMM, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Paradise Inn, GRIMM, New York, NY; Tonics, Van Doren Waxter, New York, NY; Volley, Produzentengalerie, Hamburg, Germany; L.I.T.S. Homo Naledi, GRIMM, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Volker Hüller, 11R Gallery, New York, NY; Volker Hüller, Timothy Taylor, London; Volker Hüller, curated by Anna-Catherina Gebbers, Salon 94, New York, NY. Hüller has participated in group exhibitions at GRIMM, New York, NY; Museum Weserburg für Moderne Kunst, Bremen, Germany; Kunsthal Kade, Amersfoort, Netherlands; Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; and the Falckenberg Collection, Hamburg, Germany. Hüller's work is included in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel, as well as many private collections.

Olivia Jia (b. 1994, Chicago, IL, USA) is a Philadelphia-based artist recognized for her paintings that examine diasporic identity and belonging through tableaux, which depict imagined books and objects referencing American and Chinese histories and ephemera gathered from her family. Frequently painted in nearly a monochromatic range of steely blues and grays, her paintings appear as if encountered between the thresholds of sleep and waking. Through painting, Jia examines the significance of objects and the ways in which our sense of belonging is grounded through physical belongings and the belongings of those nearest to us.

Jia received a BFA from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA in 2017. Honors include the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship to attend the Yale Norfolk Summer School of Art in 2015 and the President's Award at the University of the Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include Nine Motifs, Fleisher/Ollman, Philadelphia, PA; Perimeter at Margot Samel, New York, NY, and Ex Libris at Workplace, London, UK. Selected group shows

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include *The Blue Hour*, Workplace, London, UK; *To whom do I owe the power behind my voice?*, curated by Tally de Orellana, Commonweal, Philadelphia, PA; *An Exchange of Shifting Atmospheres*, curated by Leslie Moody Castro and Ricky Yanas, La Nao, Mexico City, Mexico; *To be a giant and keep quiet about it*, Margot Samel, New York, NY and Yee Society, Hong Kong; *Painting As Is II*, Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York, NY; *Kaleidoscope*, Workplace, London, UK; *An Exchange of Shifting Atmospheres*, curated by Leslie Moody Castro and Ricky Yanas, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Philadelphia, PA; *It feels like the first time*, Mana Contemporary, Chicago, IL; *Room for One*, Napoleon Project Space, curated by Daniel Oliva, Philadelphia, PA; *Second Nature: The Poetics of Re-presentation*, The Woodmere Museum 78th Annual Juried Exhibition, curated by Eileen Neff, Philadelphia, PA; *Untitled*, Dongsomun, Seoul, Korea.

Marin Majić (b. 1979, Frankfurt, Germany) is a Brooklyn-based painter whose powerfully atmospheric paintings of imagined worlds center around themes of engagement, intimacy, isolation, and power. Using a range of materials, including marble dust, oil paint, wax, and colored pencils, Majić's textured paintings depict dimly lit landscapes with focal points of warm, bright hues. In these backlit ecosystems, the figure is often alone, situated within verdant landscapes of larger-than-life leaves, open oceans, and lush forests. With their back to the viewer, their expression and inner life out of view. In a nearly dream-like manner, the story never crystallizes into a single story but rather is the complex of many narratives into one.

Majić studied at the Academy of Visual Arts, Zagreb, Croatia. His work has been presented in solo exhibitions at Nino Mier Gallery, New York, NY, and Los Angeles, CA; Galerie Isa, Mumbai; Marc Straus Gallery, New York, NY; and ARNDT Fine Art, Berlin, Germany. Majić's paintings have also been included in group exhibitions at James Cohan Gallery, Marc Straus Gallery, and Nino Mier Gallery in NY; Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, NJ; the Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN; and the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, NY.

Johanna Seidel (b. 1993, Sebnitz, Germany) is a visual artist based in Dresden, Germany, whose vivid paintings primarily addresses the subject of nature. Seidel approaches different perceived realities through a lyrical visual language involving symbols from history, mythology, and dreams. Blending dreams and reality allows Seidel to create her own world on the canvas. From a palette in which shades of violet, pink, orange, and green play an important role, Seidel develops stories and still images that exist in an atmospheric space, condensing memories and the imagined into abstract moments that become accessible.

Seidel received her MFA at Hochschule für Bildende Künste Dresden. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include *What my Sisters taught me*, SheBam!, Leipzig, Germany; *Azul Celeste*, Artistellar Gallery, London, UK; *Dreams under Construction*, Kunstverein Meisen, Meissen, Germany; and *Nocturne*, Galerie Mellies, Detmold, Germany. Seidel's work has been included in group exhibitions at numerous galleries and institutions including, Gaa Gallery, New York, NY; Pictorum Gallery and Soho Revue in London, UK; C.Rockefeller Center for the Contemporary Arts, Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz, LaSuV, Galerie Stephanie Kelly, Raum für zeitgenössische Kuns, Zentralwerk in Dresden, Germany, and Phyllis Johnson, Halle14, Alte Spinnerei and Zuständige Behörde in Leipzig, Germany. Later this year, Seidel's work will be featured in solo exhibitions at CLC Gallery Venture, Beijing, China, and Gaa Gallery, New York, NY