

# CHAPTER NY

**For immediate release**

**Cheyenne Julien**

*41 Floors*

January 10 – February 15, 2025

Chapter NY is excited to present *41 Floors*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Cheyenne Julien.

Through portraits, landscapes and still lifes, Julien's practice centers around architectural spaces, revealing the power of built environments to dictate racial perception. The artist's most recent body of work draws inspiration from famed architect Paul Rudolph and his richly imaginative drawings that offer an idealistic vision of architecture's potential to positively impact and guide urban renewal. In the early 1970s Rudolph designed Tracey Towers in the Bronx, the only subsidized housing project of his career. An apartment within one of these two Brutalist skyscrapers later became Julien's childhood home. The striking presence of Tracey Towers remain both a predominant part of the Bronx skyline and a reoccurring subject in Julien's work.

For her exhibition at Chapter, Julien focuses on the outdoor spaces in and around Tracey Towers that were part of Rudolph's original vision to foster community engagement within the building complex. Many of these courtyards and gardens were never realized in the final construction, but Julien copied and redrew elements of the architect's drawings to channel his specific viewpoint, merging his perspective with her own gestures and lived experience. In one painting a reclining female figure lies over subway cars in the adjacent trainyard, originally intended to become a platform for townhomes and recreational facilities. Julien adopts Rudolph's creative spirit in her own work, envisioning a limitless and futuristic architecture; but unlike Rudolph, Julien reveals the darker realities learned from living within one of these visionary projects ultimately riddled with inefficiencies and oppressive features.

Julien's resulting paintings hold greater depth than her earlier works, with more expansive and layered spaces. Contrasting artificial and natural light sources emphasize the complexity of these stacked urban environments. Stark beams of light cast from glowing windows and distant headlights penetrate Julien's compositions, either suggesting a possible divine presence or invoking the paranoia of a surveilled state of being. Julien emphasizes the interdependency of bodies and these contexts by merging building materials such as brick, metal, and concrete with her imagined figurative subjects. Although directly referencing Tracey Towers, Julien's paintings dislocate the viewer from identifiable space and time, instead favoring a world in which body and architecture become inextricably intertwined.

Cheyenne Julien's exhibition coincides with *Materialized Space: The Architecture of Paul Rudolph*, on view at The Metropolitan Museum of Art through March 16, 2025.

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**Cheyenne Julien** (b. 1994, Bronx, NY) lives and works in the Bronx, NY. She received her BFA in Painting at the Rhode Island School of Design in 2016. She has had solo and two-person exhibitions at Chapter NY, New York; Smart Objects, Los Angeles; Water McBeer, New York; and American Medium, New York. Julien's work has also been included in exhibitions at Paula Cooper, New York; High Art x Sister, Seoul; Nahmad Contemporary, New York; James Fuentes, New York; Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach; Canal Projects, New York; the Museum of the City of New York, New York; Paula Cooper, Palm Beach; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Galerie Hussenot, Paris; Hotel Europe, Zurich; Carl Freedman Gallery, Kent, UK; Anton Kern Gallery, New York; the Schlossmuseum, Linz, AT; The Jewish Museum, New York; Gladstone Gallery, New York; Public Art Fund, New York; the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York; The Harvey Gantt Center, Charlotte; Mitchell-Innes and Nash, New York; Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; Gavin Brown's Enterprise/Unclebrother, Hancock, NY; Almine Rech Gallery, New York; Karma, New York; Loyal Gallery, Stockholm; and White Cube Bermondsey, London. Julien's work is included in the collections of the Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C.; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; RISD Museum, Providence; University of New Hampshire Museum of Art, Durham, NH; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.