



TAILS AND HEADS

An exhibition of works by

Adam Alessi, Sasha Gordon, Daisy Sheff, Autumn Wallace

November 18 - December 19, 2021

CLEARING, New York

CLEARING is pleased to present *TAILS AND HEADS*, featuring paintings by Adam Alessi, Sasha Gordon, Daisy Sheff, and Autumn Wallace. Opening up a meditative, dreamlike space, the exhibition explores the semiotics of each of the artists' intimate and porous inner worlds, while simultaneously highlighting the ways in which they complement and respond to each other's personal symbolism and aesthetic languages.

Adam Alessi's psychological paintings straddle the humorous and the haunted. With an uncanny, discomfoting nature, Alessi engages figures that he calls tricksters to disrupt concepts around internal/external subject integration. These characters are derived from past personal experiences and dreams, and are suspended in void-like spaces that induce a sense of anxiety and disassociation.

Sasha Gordon's paintings unfold the tenderness and agony of the artist's internal world. Her work is populated by Asian women created in her own image, that are often depicted engaging in frivolous games or private activities, like swimming, showering, playing the violin, and, in this case, playing a game of Jenga. Growing up in the typical American suburban environment, where everything is tailored to fit into a heteronormative, white, conservative mold, the artist explores ways towards reclaiming her identity through her practice.

Engaging with the history of painting, Daisy Sheff has been developing a stylistic language through which she is displaying alchemical experiments through the materiality of the medium. By muddling heaviness with lightness, foreground and background, and glaring vibrant colors with grays, maroons and blacks, Sheff's work is exercising a logic of its own. Through these stylistic experimentations, the work seizes glimpses of private narratives that seem to be unfolding in an unfamiliar time and space.

Interested in deconstructing psychologically driven theories of the self and creating a semiotic aesthetic of Black femme experience, Autumn Wallace devised a cast of characters that populate their work, and that exist in transient states and secret narratives. These characters merge and transform between familiarity and alienation, carrying the paintings through a flux of morphing meaning. Captured in movement, and surrounded by animate and inanimate objects, these bodies flow seamlessly, from states of ecstasy to states of terror.

While the exhibition features various modes of figuration in a variety of unique artistic techniques, styles, and art historical references, Alessi, Gordon, Sheff, and Wallace, anchor their practices in their private inner worlds. Together, their works open up a collective space full of vulnerability and empathy.

Adam Alessi (born 1994 in Camarillo, CA) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

He is a self taught artist.

Solo and group exhibitions of his work have been held at Smart Objects, Los Angeles; NADA House with Zoe Fisher Projects, New York; Felix Art Fair with M+B, Los Angeles; Nino Mier, Los Angeles. He co-ran INSECT Gallery from 2019 to 2020. He is currently in a group Exhibition at Public Gallery, London and next year he will have his second solo exhibition at Smart Objects, Los Angeles.

Sasha Gordon (born 1998 in Bronx, NY) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

She received her BFA in painting from Rhode Island School of Design in 2020.

Gordon's first solo exhibition was presented at Matthew Brown Gallery, Los Angeles in 2021.

Her work has been featured in group exhibitions at Public Gallery, London; Matthew Brown Gallery, Los Angeles; Patrick Parrish Gallery, New York; Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York; Palazetto Cenci, Rome; Gelman Gallery, Providence; Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 5, Brooklyn; Robeson Art Gallery, Peekskill; and TopShop, New York.

Daisy Sheff (born 1996 in Greenbrae, CA) lives and works in Inverness, CA.

She received her BFA from UCLA in 2018.

Solo exhibitions of her work have been held at South Willard, Los Angeles and White Columns, New York. Her work has been featured in group exhibitions at Ratio 3 DTLA, Los Angeles; Grimm Gallery, New York; Ratio 3, San Francisco; Bartolini Gallery, San Rafael; RVCA, San Francisco; Timbuk2, San Francisco; Reservoir Coyote, Los Angeles; February, Austin; UCLA Sculpture Gallery, Los Angeles; Fouladi Projects, San Francisco; and 99 Cent Plus Gallery, Brooklyn. Next year she will have a solo exhibition at Ratio 3, San Francisco, USA.

Autumn Wallace (born 1996 in Philadelphia, PA) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

They received their BFA from Temple University in 2018.

Solo exhibitions of their work have been held at Gaa Gallery, Provincetown; Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown; Portside Art Parlor, Philadelphia; and Stella Elkins Gallery, Philadelphia. Their work has been featured in group exhibitions at Blum and Poe, Los Angeles; Lauren Powell Productions, Los Angeles; Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia; Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown; Gaa Gallery, Provincetown; PARISTEXASLA, Los Angeles; Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown; Little Berlin, Philadelphia; Mothership Gallery, Philadelphia; Our House Culture Center, Philadelphia; Flaten Museum, Minneapolis; and Stella Elkins Gallery, Philadelphia. Wallace currently has a solo presentation at Gaa Projects, Cologne, DE.