



48 WALKER ST | SEP 6 – OCT 19, 2024

Naudline Pierre, *Dance of the Mythics*, 2024,  
oil on canvas, 96 x 90 in., 243.8 x 228.6 cm.

# Naudline Pierre

## *The Mythic Age*

James Cohan is pleased to present *The Mythic Age*, an exhibition of new paintings and sculptural interventions by Naudline Pierre, on view from September 6 through October 19, 2024, at the gallery's 48 Walker Street location. This is Pierre's second solo exhibition with James Cohan. The gallery will host an opening reception with the artist on Friday, September 6 from 6-8 PM.

Transformation is the central tenet of Naudline Pierre's practice: evolution of the self, metamorphosis of the female form, escape from our earthly existence into the luminous unknown, and material oscillations from fresco-like dry brushing to aqueous gestures. Pierre paints scenes that are ever-shifting, in states of mystery and ecstatic potentiality. Her characters' limbs and wings extend beyond the picture plane, as if to suggest that this atmospheric world, devoid of a horizon line, continues infinitely.

Pierre transforms and reinvigorates disparate art historical references that span centuries, pointedly looking back to artists who did not and could not imagine her as their viewer, yet share a desire to reinvent and reimagine the universe. In her newest works, Pierre references Baroque and French academic painting of the 1800s, which opened the door to modernity and the heretical embrace of iconography in the service of personal, political, and radical self-expression. She draws freely from this distinctly male, European legacy of image-making, forming an intergenerational line between artists of radically different backgrounds to refashion historical motifs for a new audience.

Pierre assumes the role of voyeur or visitor within her own constructed worlds, expanding her field of vision to introduce new characters imbued with transformative potential. This widened perspective enables Pierre to more fully embrace the physical act of painting itself, using wet-into-wet techniques to build up softer lines, sfumato clouds, and areas of great motion reminiscent of weather patterns. We see Pierre engaging in the pleasures of sheer materiality – the active process of building radiant new realms from color, light and form.

These moments of effervescence are tempered by flames as dark and sinuous as oil slicks. In cool tones of desaturated blues and grays, this recurrent motif seems to register both temperature and sensuality, at turns coyly covering and drawing attention to the figures' nudity. Hair is rendered both as a braid of flames and as inky black tendrils whose nearly sentient, anti-gravitational upward movements remind us that we have been drawn into a space where rules of nature do not apply.

Upcoming events:

Saturday, September 14, 3 PM | Artists on Artworks: Naudline Pierre at The Met Cloisters

Monday, September 23, 1 PM | *The Brooklyn Rail's* The New Social Environment#1094: Naudline Pierre (Online Lecture)

Naudline Pierre (b. 1989, Leominster, MA) received an M.F.A. from New York Academy of Art, NY, and a B.F.A. from Andrews University, MI. Pierre has been the subject of major solo exhibitions at The Drawing Center (2023) and the Dallas Museum of Art (2021). Pierre participated in the 2019–2020 Studio Museum's Artist Residency and, as a culmination of the program, exhibited in a three-person exhibition at MoMA PS1. Pierre has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, most recently at Fondation Carmignac, Hyères, France; the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO; Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France; Palazzo Barberini, Rome, Italy; the Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL; Prospect.5 New Orleans, LA; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada; the Brooklyn Museum, NY; the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; The Dean Collection, Macedon, NY; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; 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; Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC; Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY; Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA; and the CC Foundation, Shanghai, China. Pierre lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

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