# SWEETWATER,

Christopher Aque
*A void*
September 15, 2021 – October 30, 2021

When I left work on March 12, 2020, Avia, the security guard said, "see you tomorrow." I had a few rolls of toilet paper stuffed in my bag and all the leftover N95 masks from the basement. Neal picked me up from the Upper East Side and drove me back to Brooklyn so I wouldn't have to take the train. I didn't get on the subway again for fourteen months.

The early days of quarantine passed in a blur of fear and crisis management; the small joys of artisanal cheese or Amazon packages being delivered alternatingly punctuated by the wail of ambulances rushing down Nostrand Avenue. We kept washing our hands, but the air was still a threat.

I spent a lot of time at the bathtub, developing the gum bichromate prints I was making—each a dozen or so individually colored exposures layered on top of one another, collapsing into an image—filling up the darkroom tray, rinsing, watching the water go back down the drain.

A few weeks after getting vaccinated, I got back on the train to go to an appointment at the DMV; my license was expiring in a surprise confirmation of the passing year. After taking my picture, my hair still buzzed in pandemic fashion, I walked from 34th Street down to West 4th. Life resumed in a rush of bodies clipping past, the ebb and flow of shared space.

Christopher Aque (*1987, Chicago) lives and works in New York. Recent solo projects include *Red-blooded, White-skinned, and the Blues*, Sweetwater, Berlin (2018); *Idling*, Regards, Chicago (2018); and Frame, Frieze Art Fair, New York (2018). His work has recently been included in group shows at Super Dakota, Brussels (2020); Kate Werble Gallery, New York (2019); OCD Chinatown, New York (2018); Abrons Arts Center, New York (2018); Rzeplinski, New York (2017); SculptureCenter, New York (2016); and Motel, New York (2016). Aque was a participant at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine, US in 2012 and received an MFA from Hunter College, New York in 2016.