

Press release

## Christina Quarles

Hauser & Wirth Menorca  
17 June – 29 October 2023



This summer, Los Angeles-based artist Christina Quarles will unveil new paintings and works on paper across the 18th-century walls of Hauser & Wirth Menorca—her first exhibition in Spain following the presentation of her work in last year’s celebrated exhibition ‘The Milk of Dreams’ at the Venice Biennale and coinciding with a major exhibition at Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin. Quarles’ critically acclaimed canvases and drawings typically display fragmented, polymorphous bodies embedded in rich, textural patterns, a singular approach to figuration unique to the artist’s visual rhetoric. Alongside the exhibition, Quarles will develop a dedicated Education Lab, complemented by events and learning activities throughout the duration of the show.

In her initial approach to the canvas, Quarles begins by making marks that evolve into line drawings of human forms and body parts. She then photographs the work and uses Adobe Illustrator to draw the backgrounds and structures that ultimately surround the figures. In a reversal of the conventional layering of a composition, Quarles’s figures precede and even dictate the environment that they come to inhabit. Quarles’s fascination with the subject of bodily experience and identity is illustrated by the ambiguous figures that populate her practice: entangled arms and legs emerge while perspectival planes bisect the bodies—simultaneously situating and dislocating them in space, a visual analogy for the imagined and prescribed boundaries of identity. ‘Fixed categories of identity can be used to marginalize but, paradoxically, can be used by the marginalized to gain visibility and political power,’ Quarles has said, ‘this paradox is the central focus of my practice.’

### About the artist

Christina Quarles (b. 1985) is a Los Angeles-based artist, whose practice works to dismantle assumptions and ingrained beliefs surrounding identity and the human figure. Born in Chicago and raised by her mother in Los Angeles, Quarles took art classes from an early age. She developed a solid foundation for a lifelong drawing practice through after-school programs and figure drawing classes at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts.

## HAUSER & WIRTH

In 2007, Quarles graduated from Hampshire College with dual BA degrees in Philosophy and Studio Art, then trained and worked in the field of graphic design. As her immersion in the visual arts progressed, she became well versed in and influenced by Marlene Dumas, Leonora Carrington, Jack Whitten, David Hockney, and Philip Guston. Seeking a vehicle for expressing the feelings and experiences language alone cannot articulate, Quarles went on to attend Yale University, where she received her MFA in 2016. She participated in an intensive artist residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture that same year.

Quarles has been the recipient of several awards and grants. She was the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Pérez Art Museum Miami Prize, in 2017 she received the Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant, and in 2015 she received the Robert Schoelkopf Fellowship at Yale University and participated in the Fountainhead Residency in 2017. In 2022, Quarles's work was featured in 'The Milk of Dreams,' the 59th International Art Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Cecilia Alemani and in 'manifesto of fragility,' the main exhibition of the 16th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath.

### For additional information, please contact:

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### Caption and courtesy information

Christina Quarles  
© Christina Quarles  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth  
Photo: Tara Darby

Christina Quarles  
...From this Squeeze (Save Me, Save Me, Save Me)  
2022

Acrylic on canvas  
127.6 x 104.8 x 5.1 cm / 50 1/4 x 41 1/4 x 2 in

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Courtesy the artist, Hauser & Wirth and Pilar Corrias, London

Part of the exhibition 'In 24 Days Tha Sun'll

Set at 7 pm,' 8 September – 29 October

2022 at Hauser & Wirth New York, 22nd Street

Photo: Thomas Barratt

### Hauser & Wirth Menorca

2023 Programme:

After the Mediterranean. 2 April – 29 October

Closed 29 May – 16 June

Christina Quarles. 17 June – 29 October

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