

ideal-i
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A two person project by James W Murray & Alexander Glass
Niagara Falls Projects, Brighton UK 28/07 - 03/08 2018

JAMES WILLIAM MURRAY & ALEXANDER GLASS

ideal-i

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Niagara Falls Projects is pleased to present a two-person project with Alexander Glass & James William Murray. Departing from Lacan's psychoanalytical concept of the 'mirror stage', ideal-i brings together two artist's unique approaches to questions of desire, fragmentation, and projections of the idealised self-image.

"He fell in love with a bodiless dream, a shadow mistaken for substance. He gazed at himself in amazement, limbs and expression as still as a statue of Parian marble."

—Ovid, Metamorphoses

ALEXANDER GLASS (b.1992) is a Sculptor living and working in London. His work explores the tense relationship between the ideas of masculinity and desire through the re-presentation of iconic imagery that speaks of the potent male body. Recent shows include 'Notes on Queerness' - The Royal Standard - Liverpool & 'A Body is A Building' Bloc Projects Billboard Commission - Sheffield. Glass is a graduate of the Royal College of Art's MA Fine Art Sculpture programme in 2017.

JAMES WILLIAM MURRAY (b. 1988) develops interrelated questions of desire, corporeality, and materiality through a range of minimal strategies. All works emphasise the body, human touch, and figuration as points of departure. He received an MA in photography from the University of Brighton in 2015 and has exhibited in the UK and internationally. His work is in the collection of the Hellenic Centre For Photography and private collections throughout Europe. In 2016 he co-founded the studio and project space Niagara Falls Projects in Brighton UK. In 2018 he was awarded the Sussex Open Commission by Towner Gallery UK and the patrons of Eastbourne Arts Circle. He is represented by Stephane Simoens Contemporary Fine Art in Knokke-Heist, Belgium. Recent exhibitions include: 'Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing' (solo) Stephane Simoens Contemporary Fine Art, Knokke BELGIUM, 'Desire Works' (solo) Project 78, St Leonard's by Sea UK, 'Marks Make Meaning' (group show), University of Brighton UK, NYC Art Book Fair (portfolio presentation with Daily Life Storage), MoMA PS1, New York, USA, Athens Photo Festival, Benaki Museum (Pireos Annexe), Athens GR

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NIAGARA FALLS PROJECTS

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Murray, *Failed Circle* 2015-2018
steel with gold leaf
dimension variable



Glass, *Reaching* 2018
epoxy resin
33 x 33 x 3 cm



Murray, *Stood* 2017
silver leaf on bathmat
60 x 30 cm



Murray, *Untitled (Agamemnon & Argynnus) i & ii*, 2018
graphite on carrara marble slabs in steel frame.
61 x 61 x 4 cm / 61 x 61 x 4 cm



Glass, *Cleanse & Repeat* 2018
epoxy resin, ash wood
50 x 16 x 13 cm



installation view



Glass, *Death of Achilles* 2018
etching on acrylic, ash wood
15 x 20 x 4 cm



installation view



installation view



Murray, *Untitled (Bobby & River)*, 2018
graphite on panels in oak frame with copper tape
82 x 82 x 4 cm



Glass/Murray, *Bits of Broken Boy*, 2018
copper leaf on feather pillow, paraffin wax
70 x 50 x 15 cm



installation view



installation view



Glass, *Torso (test #1)*, 2018
plaster
56 x 40 x 10 cm



installation view



Glass, *Hang by the Pool (speedo #2)*, 2018
bronze
13 x 18 x 5 cm



Glass / Murray *Untitled*, 2018
studio mirror with modified graphite frame, epoxy cast
35 x 45 x 3 cm



Glass, *Peel & Relax*, 2018
epoxy resin
dimension variable



Peel & Relax

dimensions variable

epoxy resin

edition of 10 + 3 AP (edition variable)

For the occasion of this exhibition Alexander Glass has produced a variable edition of works, which are available to purchase for £100.

Niagara Falls Projects is an artist led, non-commercial studio and project space co-founded by James William Murray and Martin Seeds. All proceeds go directly towards producing future projects. Please contact us for more information about our artist editions.

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Alexander Glass
A Dream of Apollo

Summer, I wake in heat. My body radiates and perspires, needs to be showered. Stretching, sat up on my bed I watch myself in the long mirror being sure to make the most of any definition I can find. This pleases me, the knowledge that my body suggests a man, that with passing days it clenches and firms, revealing what is hard underneath layers of soft. A body in progress, a body as an ambition, a body as an image, reflected.

I have taken countless images of my own body, but they rarely satisfy. It exists as a comparative to a standard and an ideal within my own mind. In the minds of many perhaps. Not so elusive, the image is everywhere. In priaptic impulses, I watch it; in the gym on the tube and standing in the halls grand buildings. I've seen it everywhere; I seek it always. The image is of a young man strong, slender and smooth as marble, Apollo. I yearn to run my hands over a body of warm stone and know that it is mine.

The body is a sculpture, that much is true. Through time and labour, it can be moulded into something new. What I create is my image alone and the image I seek it isn't one thing, the ideal is fluid. Desire is not a solid thing and shouldn't be. Desire at it's best is intangible and through its intangibility nurture the need for its object. When sculpted to form, the object, the image of Apollo, is found to be fragile and temporary. The ideal is what is strong, the want. The want to be and the need to hold.

I have dreamt of Apollo, the ever-youthful God. The hunter who drives the burning sun. In lust and in envy. Immortal through myth and representation. And when I see those who walk in his image, I yearn to be or be with him, it does not matter which it is. In truth, what I want most is to be seen as him, reflected as his image.

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