

SVETLANA

77 Madison Street
New York NY

Jasper Marsalis
Flash blindness

September 14 – October 14, 2018

Gallery hours: Thursday - Sunday, 12-6pm
Opening reception: Friday, January 12 6-8pm
For more information: info@svetlanagallery.com

Svetlana is pleased to present *Flash blindness*, a solo exhibition by Jasper Marsalis.

*Beware the evil sun...
turn you black
turn your hair
crawl your eyeballs
rot your teeth.*

–LeRoi Jones *Hymn for Lanie Poo*

“Am I crazy for watching the eclipse today w no glasses? I've sungazed before and afterwards saw colors for a whole day. I didn't die tho,” –Joey Bada\$\$

<http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/gossip/joey-bada-stares-eclipse-cancels-shows-article-1.3437257>

<http://www.atomicarchive.com/Effects/effects13.shtml>

I tried to separate my desire for her from my desire for the world I wanted to be a part of... In the middle of the night, I was staring at the side of Melody's face. The shadows obscured her cheek bones, and from the side she appeared to be a black woman...”

Simeon Marsalis *As Lie Is to Grin* (pg. 127)

Flash blindness is a representation of black in extreme conditions of whiteness: a performance on stage, a performance on field, a performance in CLUB

an over-exposure to intense light, so bright it temporarily blinds. so bright it can leave a darkened scar on the retina, giving the illusion of its continued presence or ghosting watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf2h-glDQ4k&frags=pl%2Cwn>



like (the stars) the sun, its brightness turns its whiteness to blackness. like how light can burn/tan/cook/char.

when we think of “space”, as in NASA, we think of the stars, planets, and comets as subjects ((trustworthy) actors) and everything else as a vague black empty infinitely meaningless ground. however, most stars are already dead and it is just the latency of our perception that gives them “life”.

“native black” is the default “off state” of our new iPhone/screens black is the space that we sit/stand in when we watch our favorite star(s) perform for us black is the non-sense, non-place, non-

<http://unbag.net/issue-2-end/black-gooey-universe/>

paradox of term “Black”. “Star”.

black stardom guides me towards Abstraction

Painting the abstract/impossibility/invisibility of black space

“subjects” in painting are dumb (trustworthy) actors serving, signifying, pretending, playing compositions. but I want unknowable/invisible/impossible actors. Because when you become a star you become an object, and by that time you already died.

Flash blindness maps the conspiracy of the anti-black world through Stars, Spades, Clubs, CLUBs, Fields, Tears, Spotlights, Lights, UV Glasses, 88, Caspar David Frederich’s/Guston’s/ Hammonds’ Heads, and Rose Madder

Jasper Marsalis (b. 1995, Los Angeles, California) received his BFA from The Cooper Union in 2017.