Private View | 7 September 6-8 pm 8 Sept - 16 Oct 2022

## ATALANTA XANTHE Uteroverse

46 Mortimer St London W1W 7RL



Market . Saako sensor Marke GESSO ALICE BLACK is proud to present Atalanta Xanthe's (b. 1996) debut solo exhibition, *Uteroverse*, comprising five large-scale paintings and accompanying drawings. The *Uteroverse* series charts the experience of anthropomorphic sperm as they journey through the imagined landscape of the reproductive tract.

Xanthe was born in England and grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She now lives and works in Brooklyn. New York. Xanthe attended the University of Oxford, Ruskin School of Art, then received her MFA from the New York Academy of Art in 2018. On graduating, she became the school's youngest Fellow (2018–2019). Xanthe is represented by ALICE BLACK in London and is featured in the permanent collections of the Ruth Borchard Collection, UK and the Marval Collection, Italy.

*Uteroverse* began with Xanthe's discovery of a half-brother, born from sperm donated by her father decades earlier. This new half sibling was the same age as Xanthe and lived three miles away from her in New York City. Processing this revelation. Xanthe was struck by the randomness, extravagance, and drama of the genetic and reproductive process. These paintings represent a homage to all the versions of ourselves that never were.

The story of *Uteroverse* starts with a tree falling in Fallopia; it's trunk divides one egg into two. From here, the paintings follow the sperm as they scale craggy outcrops of rock, hurtle through thickets, and stalk the eggs. Xanthe, embracing painting's vexed relationship with the literary conceit of a main character, subverts the idea of protagonist as survivor – of the 200 million sperm ejaculated, we know only one will make it. 30 thousand years after an unknown hand created the Willendorf Venus, depictions of female sexuality typically still focus on breasts and genitals as expressive of a bountiful and generous fertility. Yet the inside story of procreation is stormy and perilous. Far from a passive pleasure garden, a woman's reproductive tract is the sperm's decimator and decider.

Xanthe's paintings appropriate the scale and seriality of History Paintings, a genre traditionally depicting male heroism or grand events, to tell a story that is female – often invisible yet indispensable to our species. Fusing influences from Hiroshige, Bruegel, and biological diagrams, the playful pictorial language of the work contrasts with its often macabre subject matter.

*Uteroverse* is about journeys: how we are defined by the landscapes we seek to dominate, x the landscapes we move through move us. Journeys have been used as allegorical devices for all of recorded history, from the Odyssey onwards. This show is an allegory for a specific biological journey, new to painting. It is also an exploration of being in a landscape. We hope you will enjoy it as both!

Atalanta would like to thank the De Laszlo Foundation and G.Sheldrake for their support.





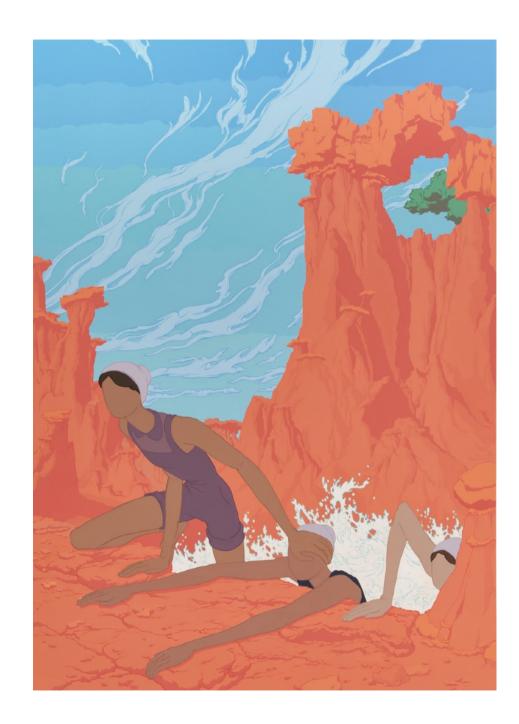
Atalanta Xanthe **'Monozygote' 2022** Acrylic on canvas 137 x 137 cm

£ 8,000 (excl. VAT)





Atalanta Xanthe 'Torrent' 2022 Acrylic on canvas 213 x 152 cm







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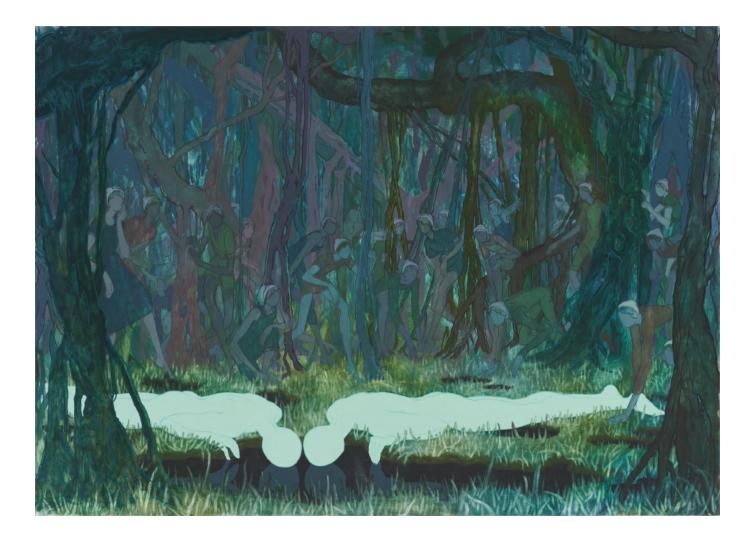
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Atalanta Xanthe **'Protagonist' 2022** Acrylic on canvas 213 x 152 cm







Atalanta Xanthe **'Threshold' 2022** Acrylic on canvas 152 x 213 cm





Atalanta Xanthe **'Hypermotile' 2022** Acrylic on canvas 137 x 137 cm

£ 8,000 (excl. VAT)





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Atalanta Xanthe 'Eggs on Overlook' 2022 Pen & pencil on paper 54 x 39 cm [Framed]



Atalanta Xanthe **'Acid Leap' 2022** Pen & pencil on paper 54 x 39 cm [Framed]







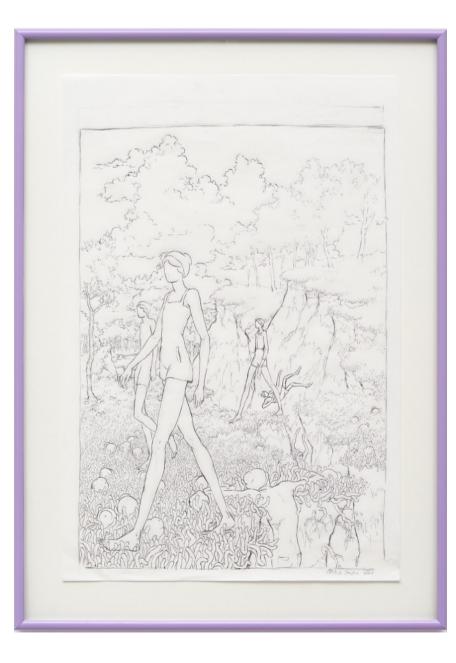
Atalanta Xanthe **'Uphill' 2022** Pen & pencil on paper 54 x 39 cm [Framed]



Atalanta Xanthe **'Poison Fruit' 2022** Pen & pencil on paper 54 x 39 cm [Framed]



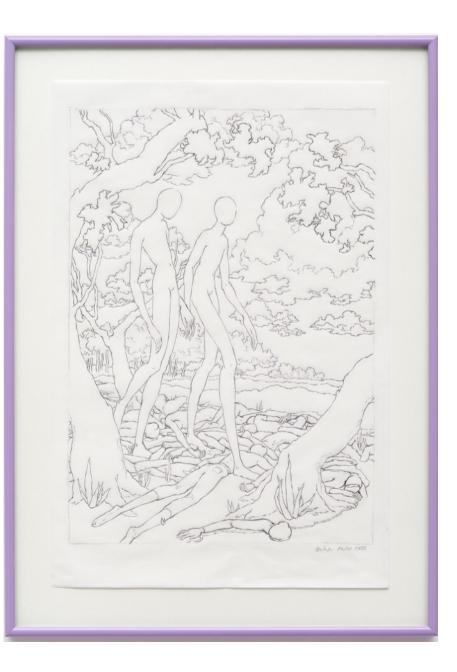




Atalanta Xanthe **'Earthquake' 2022** Pen & pencil on paper 54 x 39 cm [Framed]



Atalanta Xanthe **'After' 2022** Pen & pencil on paper 54 x 39 cm [Framed]







Atalanta Xanthe 'Passage' 2022 Pen & pencil on paper 54 x 39 cm [Framed]





Atalanta Xanthe **'Threshold' 2022** Pen & pencil on paper 39 x 54 cm [Framed]





Atalanta Xanthe **'Hypermotile' 2022** Pen & pencil on paper 38 x 38 cm [Framed]





## ATALANTA XANTHE | BIOGRAPHY

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Xanthe's is a world of fantastical surrealism – a beguiling collision of nature and artifice. Through her own distinctive lens and skilled hand, Xanthe explores the nature of home and biography and is influenced by stagecraft and the world of theatre. A practice rooted in drawing, Xanthe teases out her composition and narrative over the course of many preliminary studies, before embarking on the final painting. Xanthe's ability to vault, jump headlong, sprint or glide effortlessly across the canvas is testament to her love of paint and the purist act of applying pigment to canvas, in the name of her story-telling.



## 'UTEROVERSE' ATALANTA XANTHE

Private View: Wednesday 7 September 2022 (6-8PM) Exhibition Dates: Thursday 8 September – Sunday 16 October 2022

## ALICE BLACK

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