

# GAGOSIAN

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**Gagosian Announces Series of Solo Exhibitions Organized by Antwaun Sargent**

**Featuring New Works by Awol Erizku, Alexandria Smith, and Amanda Williams**

**Presented at Park & 75 in New York from March to July 2022**

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Awol Erizku, *Lion (Body) I*, 2022, Duratrans on lightbox, 50 7/8 × 67 1/4 × 3 3/4 inches (129.2 × 170.7 × 9.5 cm) © Awol Erizku

**NEW YORK, January 21, 2022**—Gagosian is pleased to announce a series of three solo exhibitions organized by director Antwaun Sargent to be held this spring and early summer at the gallery’s Park & 75 location in New York. The four-month program will include individual presentations featuring new works by Awol Erizku, Alexandria Smith, and Amanda Williams, marking the first dedicated exhibition for each artist at Gagosian, and the first solo presentation at any gallery in New York for Williams. The series follows Sargent’s curatorial debut at the gallery with *Social Works* in New York and *Social Works II* in London.

Sargent commented: “I’m excited to present exhibitions by Awol, Alexandria, and Amanda at Park & 75. Their distinct and fresh practices align with the gallery’s commitment to present artists who push beyond established boundaries in painting, sculpture, and photography.”

Opening on March 10, 2022, the series of three five-week exhibitions will begin with Awol Erizku. The presentation, *Memories of a Lost Sphinx*, will offer a constellation of contemporary images that explore the conceptual framework of the sphinx as a hybrid, cross-cultural symbol that embodies riddles, wisdom, divinity, thresholds, and the transition between life and death.

In late April and into early June, the work of Alexandria Smith—who was included in both *Social Works* and *Social Works II* in 2021—will be featured. Smith’s presentation, *Pretend Gravitas and Dream Aborted Givens*, will continue her investigation into a constant reevaluation of selfhood and

the confidences, contradictions, and uncertainties of the Black femme body through allegorical assemblage paintings and collage drawings.

For the final exhibition, opening in June, artist and architect Amanda Williams will exhibit new works from *What black is this, you say?*, a series of poignant oil and watercolor paintings produced as an identity-affirming response to the recent tumultuous racial events in the United States. The presentation will reference and build upon her painting *Candy Lady* (2021), a work that was included in *Social Works II*, which considered the relationship between space—personal, public, institutional, and psychic—and Black social practice.

**Awol Erizku** is a multidisciplinary artist working in photography, film, sculpture, and installation, creating a new vernacular that bridges the gap between African and African American visual culture, referencing art history, hip hop, and spirituality, among other subjects, in his work. Erizku received a BFA from the Cooper Union, New York, and an MFA from the Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT. Erizku's work has been exhibited at prominent institutions including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; FLAG Art Foundation, New York; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto. He also brings high concept to commercial photography highlighting cultural and creative leaders for publications such as the *New Yorker*, *New York*, *GQ*, and *Vanity Fair*.

**Alexandria Smith** is a mixed-media visual artist based in London and New York whose work interweaves memory, autobiography, and history to explore the complexities of Black identity and its relationship to the body. She earned a BFA in illustration from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY; an MA in art education from New York University; and an MFA in fine arts from Parsons School of Design, The New School, New York. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Queens Museum/Jerome Foundation Fellowship, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture Fellowship, and the Fine Arts Work Center Fellowship. She has been awarded residencies at MacDowell, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Yaddo, and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Process Space, among others. Smith's most recent exhibitions include her first solo museum exhibition, *Monuments to an Effigy* at the Queens Museum, New York, and group exhibitions at Lisson Gallery, London, and Gagosian, New York and London. She also has a forthcoming solo exhibition at the Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH. Smith is currently head of painting at the Royal College of Art in London.

**Amanda Williams's** dynamic practice comprising installation, sculpture, painting, and photography poses urgent questions about race and the built environment. Williams was raised on Chicago's South Side and trained in architecture at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. She begins each project by assigning specific hues to everyday spaces, using color to make visible local concerns about inequity and relating them to problems endemic to cities all over the world. For her breakout series, *Color(ed) Theory Suite* (2014–16), presented at the first Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015, the artist painted houses due for demolition in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood in vibrant, culturally charged colors. The documentary photographs of these interventions interrogate the racial underpinnings of urban decay. The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago mounted Williams's first institutional solo exhibition in 2017. The following year, she coauthored a large sculptural installation for the US Pavilion at the Biennale Architettura 2018 in Venice. In 2021, Williams was featured in two exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, including mounting a participatory performance and installation work titled *Embodied Sensations*.

**Awol Erizku**

March 10–April 16, 2022

**Alexandria Smith**

April 28–June 4, 2022

**Amanda Williams**

June 9–July 8, 2022

Gagosian Park & 75, 821 Park Avenue, New York

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