



## ***Everybody is A Star***

Recent paintings by Marta Murray

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On view November 17 - December 15 2023. Opening reception 11/17 6-8pm.

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“Everybody is a Star” showcases ten paintings by Marta Murray made between 2021 and 2023. These works are based on photos taken on the streets of New York, specifically focusing on mannequins – behind glass, beheaded, and duplicated ten times in a row.

In 2021, Murray began to document heads popping out of the steps of her local supermarket. Emerging like submarine periscopes from the pavement, these truncated heads donned bedazzled surgical masks and earmuffs, balaclavas and blue eyeshadow. Each day, the display was broken down and rearranged, some items having been sold the previous day. In their bleak uniformity and absurd appearance, the heads captured the morbidity of the times, and Murray began photographing the scene on a regular basis. This drew her attention to other mannequin heads, which seemed to be sprouting on every city block. A photo archive grew and became the soil for her paintings.

By rendering her subjects with varying degrees of realism, Murray projects a range of expressions and personalities onto her scenes. At times, plastic figures appear to have human-like qualities. In other instances, their blank stares and white complexions read as obviously lifeless. Window reflections confuse interior and exterior spaces – shelves of merchandise are spliced with fluorescent lights and mirrored fragments of the street outside. Collectively, these works tell a story about humans in cities, using mannequins as both props and actors.

## BIO

Marta Murray (b. 1996) is a Chicago born artist based in New York City. She received her BFA from New York University in 2018 with a concentration in Painting and Printmaking. Murray's paintings combine imagery from vintage advertisements and ephemera, her own photographs, and subjects from her dreams. Her work highlights aspects of urban life that beg questioning or that visually interrupt mundane patterns with glimmers of beauty.

The exhibition can be seen by appointment. To plan your visit, contact: [mjm987@nyu.edu](mailto:mjm987@nyu.edu)

Images (left to right): "4 Faces" 2022 acrylic on canvas 30x40", "Stoop Heads" 2021, oil on canvas 9x14."