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For immediate release:

PARADICE PALASE is pleased to present two sculptures from Troy, NY based artist Alyssa McClenaghan. Alyssa's practice focuses on materials traditionally used in the construction and adornment of homes, which she composes into bodily creatures and domestic objects. Over the last two and a half years her series of sculptures, which draw a great likeness to radiators, examine the relationship between materials and gender. For the artist, radiators represent the complexity of deep internal systems. Combining liquid, pressure and time their heat is permeating, yet slow to cool. Although they are made of cast iron, they can be quite delicate and are vulnerable to freeze, expand and burst. Alyssa examines the parallels between these domestic mechanisms, the human body, and the female psyche in context of historical roles of support. By imparting a personality into her objects - giving each human-like colors, gestures and forms - Alyssa begins to unravel her own history of femininity, comfort, fragility, necessity, and strength. Made from light-weight foam insulation board, plaster, and paint, she first builds dense cube-like layers that are then carved into unique shapes by hand and without the use of power tools. After multiple layers of plaster are applied and sanded down, the objects are painted in matte acrylic house paints. This labor intensive process is a self-soothing act for the artist, as a means to work through inherent traumas. The materials transform, recreate, and reimagine the traditional radiator, while simultaneously referencing the human body and its plethora of possible contortions and manipulations. The works are soft but stable, their matte finishes soothing the eye while the compact construction emanates a power beyond their radii.

The titles of each sculpture in the series, like *The Girl on Screen Seemed to Have A Definite Knack for Controlling Her Own Destiny*, are aptly taken from Joan Didion's seminal novel *Play It as It Lays*. This story of a woman in her thirties navigating marriage, divorce, motherhood, addiction and mental illness speaks to the often overlooked reality of the lived feminine experience. The sculpture in consideration offers patience, resilience, and transformation as a modus operandi for the next generation.

Both works are on view 8/28 - 8/29, 2021 in NADA x Foreland, presented as part of Upstate Art Weekend. The show is located in the new Foreland campus at 111 Water Street, Catskill NY. The show is free and open to the public, with hours 11am - 6pm each day. For more information about the show, including visitor details, visit www.newartdealers.org/programs/nada-x-foreland/visit. To request an inventory list of the two sculptures, please email lauren@paradicepalase.com.



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