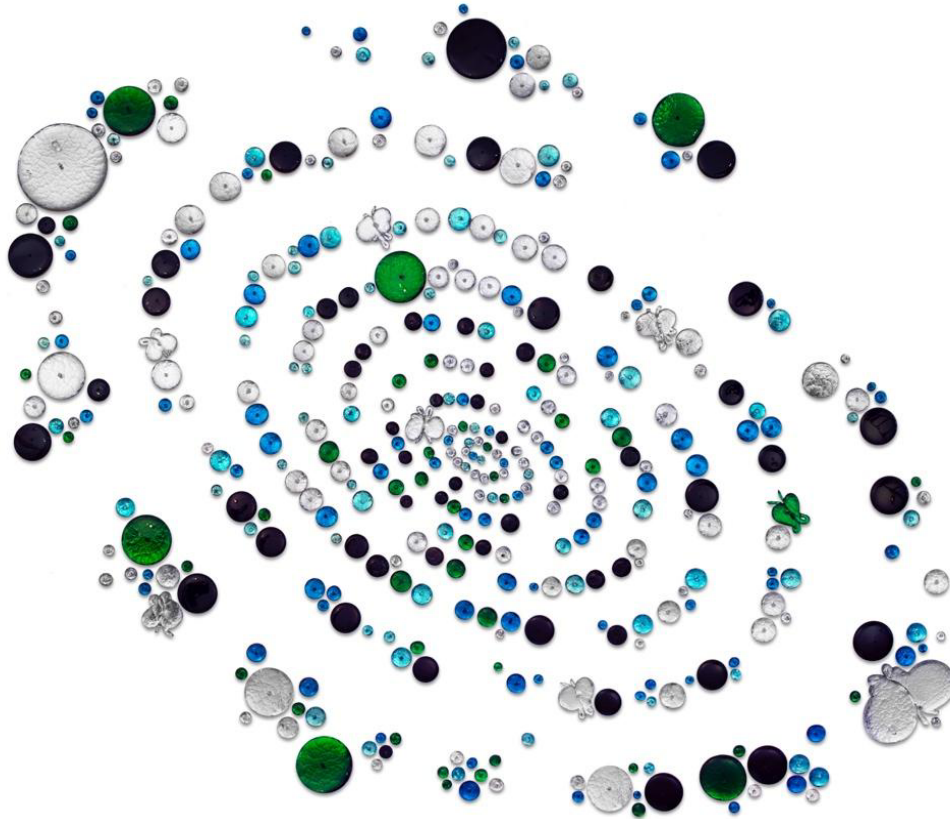


ROB WYNNE: *AFTERGLOW*

TO BE EXHIBITED AT CRAIG STARR GALLERY SEPT 5-OCT 14, 2023



Rob Wynne, TWILIGHT VORTEX, 2023, Poured and mirrored glass, 64 x 76 inches (162.6 cm x 193 cm)

NEW YORK – **Craig Starr Gallery** is pleased to present *AFTERGLOW*, a selection of works by American glass, textile, and installation artist **Rob Wynne** (b. 1948), upon the publication of [Obstacle Illusion](#). This major new monograph collects five decades of Wynne’s explorations of language, material, and history and is forthcoming in October 2023 from **Gregory R. Miller & Co.** The solo exhibition is a collaboration between **Craig Starr Gallery** and **GAVLAK**.

Opening at **Craig Starr Gallery** September 19th from 5 to 7 pm and on view September 5 through October 14, the exhibition *AFTERGLOW* will feature four of the artist’s iconic poured glass pieces (2022–2023), alongside a selection of archival photograms and text-based works from the 1970s and 1980s. The opening reception will include early-release copies of the monograph.

[Obstacle Illusion](#) is the first comprehensive and fully illustrated publication on the artist’s work, spanning the 1970s to the current day and tracking Wynne’s development from early paintings and collages to a recent exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. It features new texts by noted

American novelist **A.M. Homes** and independent curator **Michael Duncan** alongside an interview with NYC living treasure **Linda Yablonsky**.

Titled after a slip-of-the-tongue uttered by a New York City taxi driver on a rainy late-night trip across town in the late 1990s, *Obstacle Illusion* highlights Wynne's brilliant, fundamental engagement with chance, thought, and language throughout his practice. His work ranges from playful or punning early works like a self-addressed Western Union telegram reminding himself "I AM STILL ALIVE" to later drawings and paintings made with ephemeral or untraditional materials like smoke, thread, and sequins, to sculptural installations featuring silkscreen prints, embroidered suits, and gorgeous, perplexing phrases made of molten, mirrored glass. Wynne has spent the last five decades challenging the normative processes of making art. Steeped in literary and philosophical ideas and references, his work plays equally with illusion and allusion, employing a "through-the-looking-glass" sense of curiosity and wit to inquire into the "how" of how things are made.

Moving fluently, sometimes subversively, between expressive, potentially "outsider" materials, Wynne is perhaps best-known for his unique, freehand method of "drawing" shapes, abstract compositions, and phrases with poured, molten glass. Investigating both its liquid nature and transparency, he mirrors the back of the glass pieces, creating a poetic effect in which light reflects the textured surface. *AFTERGLOW* brings the expanse of Wynne's work into a new retrospective light.

An integral figure in the Downtown NYC scene since the 1970s, "Rob Wynne is an art world insider who is an outsider," according to A.M. Homes, "an artist whose work is a commentary on a commentary, an autobiography not just of an individual but of an era.... Wynne is engaged in conversation not with the individual, but more specifically the ether of our culture, the essence of the time we are living in. It is as though the scent of a moment, the psychic perfume that is both aphrodisiac and hallucinogenic, creates a slightly elevated, altered state where beauty, drama (trauma), pleasure, and pain are of a piece or place. This is where he is most often found."

About Craig Starr Gallery

Craig Starr Gallery is located at 5 East 73rd Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11am-5:30pm, and by appointment. For general information please visit the gallery's website at www.craigstarr.com.

About GAVLAK

GAVLAK is an internationally recognized contemporary art gallery with locations in Palm Beach, Florida and Los Angeles, California. Founded by Sarah Gavlak in 2005, the gallery represents over twenty acclaimed artists, primarily focusing on the representation of women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ artists. For general information please visit the gallery's website at gavlakgallery.com.

About Rob Wynne

Rob Wynne tests the boundaries of genres in his delicately crafted mixed-media works, installations, drawings, and canvases. Though he uses a range of techniques and mediums, poured glass is central to his work. Claiming that he is “always trying to break rules and embrace the techniques in glassmaking,” Wynne demonstrates its malleability, shaping it into text pieces in objects exquisite and absurd, such as eyeballs, mushrooms, and spider webs. Text is key to his practice. He uses words—embroidered over images, formed of glass, painted onto objects—to alter meaning and suggest narratives. In his “Embroidered Paintings,” for example, he embroiders open-ended words and phrases like “come back” over Rococo images which he simultaneously sends-up and complicates, hinting that the serious and playful may be shades of the same thing.