

Oto Gillen
Compass Rose
April 10 - May 25, 2019
Dallas, Texas

Winter iced the courtyard's pinchy gravel and dropped Hypatian's luxury foliage to the Earth. Fatima enjoyed the harshness and the renewal and the blanket of crunching tannery. She enjoyed the massive hood on her HYPATIAN emblazoned puffer, which she'd tricked her mother into ordering a few sizes too large. She enjoyed the sound of oxfords puncturing the layer of dead leaves and the grass smeared juicily down corridors like a green thing bleeding. Daily, the sky switched between stark white and stark slate and cars still slid into each other on 635 because Texans, on principle, refuse to learn to handle a freeze. By this point every wreck was performance.

But *Fatima* was learning...

The bottom of her mind was tan, too. Layered in something she didn't need anymore, an artifice slowly rotting.

She'd begun to notice things about Dallas.

How nobody went south of the Trinity. How a girl vanished every few weeks or so, for any number of inpatient rehabs. How the undulating greens off JFK never referred to any Red Space—but praised relentlessly New Palladia. How the politician's children were by far the most frightening, their grades inimitable, their shoes milky with bleach. It was a year of watching her body alone, a magical practice which conserved energy and funneled power into the world of her mind. Something was splitting into two pieces, and she wanted to catch it when it happened, and suck the center dry. So Fatima watched herself walking up stairs alone, riding the elevator alone, using her transport pass alone. She watched herself dip in and out of complicated feelings. Including this new one. Rage. She watched herself receive fair marks, but never good ones, because she did not participate.

And during conferences, she became embarrassed.

She could not account for her resistance.

-excerpt from *PAIN*, a novel-in-progress by Allison Bulger

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Times Square, August 2, 2017

Dye sublimation on aluminum, wood. 2019

33.75 x 49.5 x 1.25 inches

Rain, January 17, 2017

Dye sublimation on aluminum, wood. 2019

33.75 x 49.5 x 1.25 inches

Fountain, January 19, 2017

Dye sublimation on aluminum, wood. 2019

33.75 x 49.5 x 1.25 inches

The Point/The Lake, August 13, 2017

Dye sublimation on aluminum, wood. 2019

33.75 x 49.5 x 1.25 inches