



LEILA HELLER.



NEAL ROCK  
*PERICARDIUM*



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Neal Rock: *Pericardium*  
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Back Cover Image: *Actaeon*, 2021  
Inside Back Cover (L-R): *Gnathic Line*, 2022; *Pericardium*, 2022; *Κιμέβην*, 2022

NEAL ROCK  
*PERICARDIUM*

# Pericardium

By Joanna Klink

Am I not alone, as I thought I was, as I thought

The day was, the hour I walked into, morning

When I felt night fly from my chest where prospect had

Slackened, and close itself off, understanding, as I thought did,

That the ground would resist my legs and not let them

Break nor let them be released into air as my heart, in its

Muscle, might be released from the body that surrounds it,

Like someone who, placing a hand on a shoulder’s

Blade, felt a life move inside an hour and a day

Break from the day the hour meant something more than weakness,

More than fear, and flew forward into the depths of

Prospect, your arms, where you’d been, before me, waiting

For me, the way the body has always been waiting for the heart to sense

It is housed, it is needed, it will not be harmed.

Neal Rock is a Welsh-born artist currently living and working in Charlottesville, Virginia. In a visual art career spanning twenty years, Rock has explored the material and conceptual boundaries of painting as its limits have been informed and redefined by other forms of cultural production such as film, sculpture and architecture, amongst others. His work came of age in the early 2000s and pays homage to pervious generations of artists such as Lynda Benglis, Fabian Marcaccio and Bernard Frize, who set a foundation for what Rock has explored through his painting practice.

Underlying his work is a concern for painting as a time-based endeavor, one that encompasses both temporal and atemporal qualities – factoring differing notions of time into physical propositions in paint. As a monoglot who was socialized in an officially bilingual country, Rock is acutely aware of the role of language as that which contains performative acts of communication, opacity and protection. In this regard he has often titled his work with words no longer in everyday use, or by adjoining words from multiple languages as a means to discuss familiarity and estrangement in the material, corporeal aspects of his practice. He addresses human forms – interrelational and entangled – through a synthetic material that allows for abstraction and a perceptual immediacy. These accentuations have underpinned his work for over two decades and, in its current iteration, forms an oblique relationship to human bodies. Whilst the visceral and oblique might seem at odds with one another, Rock’s intention is to speak to this disjuncture stemming from his formative years, experiencing the Welsh language as optical, sculptural and perceptual rather than linguistic. As such, he understands estrangement as situated within the familiar – the immediacy of surfaces warped, becoming interior or sheathed membranes – a trope familiar within American ‘body horror’ films of the late 1970s and 1980s, to which his work remains indebted.

Pericardium – the name given to the thin membrane encircling the heart – is a poem by Joanna Klink and serves as both title and preface for this exhibition. With the generous permission of the poet whom Rock met at an artist residency in 2016, the poem has been reproduced in the exhibition catalogue. It serves as a pericardium for Rock’s continued interest in the often blurred and complex relationship between bodily interior and exterior, self-consciousness and the limits of what language and sensibility can encompass or undertake. This exhibition marks Rock’s second solo exhibition in New York since his debut with Henry Urbach Architecture in 2005.

Rock holds a BA (Hons) in Painting from the University of Gloucestershire, UK; an MA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins School of Art & Design, London and a practice-based Ph.D. in Painting from London’s Royal College of Art. His work has been featured in commercial solo exhibitions in London, Amsterdam, Paris, New York and Los Angeles, and Rock has participated in international survey exhibitions at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH; Contemporary Art Museum Houston, TX; The John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK; New York’s Storefront for Art & Architecture; London’s Royal Academy of Art & ICA, amongst others. In 2009 he had his first public gallery solo exhibition; Fansestra & Other Works, at the New Art Gallery Walsall, UK. He was the recipient of the 2015-16 Grant Wood Painting Fellowship at the University of Iowa, alongside other residencies and fellowships including, MASS MoCA, Yaddo, VCCA and South Dakota State University. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Studio Art; Painting at the University of Virginia.



*Φ*, 2022  
 Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
 45.72 x 27.94 x 20.32 cm. / 18.0 x 11.0 x 8.0 in.



*Aber*, 2021  
 Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
 76.2 x 40.64 x 22.86 cm. / 30.0 x 16.0 x 9.0 in.





***Gnathic Line***, 2022  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
68.58 x 45.72 x 27.94 cm. / 27.0 x 18.0 x 11.0 in.







*Prosopa 07/21*, 2021  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
109.22 x 96.52 x 45.72 cm. / 43.0 x 38.0 x 18.0 in.





*Llefrith*, 2021

Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
93.98 x 71.12 x 33.02 cm. / 37.0 x 28.0 x 13.0 in.







*Pericardium*, 2022  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
106.68 x 91.44 x 40.64 cm. / 42.0 x 36.0 x 16.0 in.





***Tlooth***, 2021  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
43.18 x 27.94 x 15.24 cm. / 17.0 x 11.0 x 6.0 in.







***Posy #1***, 2021  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
40.64 x 30.48 x 17.78 cm. / 16.0 x 12.0 x 7.0 in.





***Posy #2***, 2021  
 Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
 40.64 x 27.94 x 15.24 cm. / 16.0 x 11.0 x 6.0 in.





*Κινέβην*, 2022  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
66.04 x 40.64 x 22.86 cm. / 26.0 x 16.0 x 9.0 in.





*Actaeon*, 2021  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
101.6 x 71.12 x 35.56 cm. / 40.0 x 28.0 x 14.0 in.







*Μπλε*, 2022  
Pigmented silicone on polystyrene & Masonite  
50.8 x 38.1 x 20.32 cm. / 20.0 x 15.0 x 8.0 in.





# NEAL ROCK

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Education

2017	PhD Painting (by-project). Royal College of Art
2000	MA Fine Art. Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design
1999	BA Fine Art Painting (Hons). University of Gloucestershire
1998	Erasmus Scholarship. Ecole De Beaux Arts de Lyon

### Selected Fellowships, Residencies & Awards

2023	Lakkos Artist Residency. Crete. Greece
2022	Arts Itoya. Artist in Residence. Takeo, Japan
2018	South Dakota State University. Stuart Artist in Residence. Brookings, SD
2017	Yaddo. Artist in Residence. Saratoga Springs, NY
2017	Studios at MASS MoCA. Artist in Residence. North Adams, MA
2016	XL Catlin Art Prize. (finalist). London, UK
2015-16	Grant Wood Painting Fellowship. University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA
2007	Jerwood Contemporary Painters. London
2007	University of Nevada Las Vegas. Artist in Residence. Las Vegas, NV
2004	British Council Award to Artists
2004	Wales Art International Grant. Wales, UK
2002	Kensington & Chelsea College. Artist in Residence. London
2001	Virginia Centre for the Creative Arts. Artist in Residence. Amherst, VA

### Selected Solo & Two Person Exhibitions

2023	New Art Projects. London, UK
2022	Pericardium. Leila Heller Gallery. New York, NY
2022	Hidora. Arts Itoya. Takeo, Japan
2021	Flesh Poems. Ruffin Gallery. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA
2019	Transfers (On the Margin). With Augustine Carr. Transition Gallery. London
2018	Herm 0918. Ritz Gallery. South Dakota State University. Brookings, SD
2015	Herm 0515. Galerie Particulière / Foucher-Biousse. Paris, France
2014	Herm 0714. Loudhailer. Los Angeles, CA
2012	Velum. Kunstverein Heppenheim. Heppenheim, Germany
2012	Lethic. Neal Rock & Philipp Haager. Strzelski Gallery. Stuttgart, Germany
2010	Fanestra and Other Works. Mihai Nicodim Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2009	Fanestra & Other Works. The New Art Gallery Walsall. Walsall, UK
2006	Pingere Triptych. Grand Arts. Kansas City, MO
2006	Neal Rock. Torch Gallery. Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2006	Hydan Project. FA Projects. London
2005	Faith Culture. Kontainer Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2004	Work from the Polari Range. Henry Urbach Architecture. New York, NY
2003	Work from the Polari Range. FA Projects. London

### Selected Group Exhibitions

2023	Stuart Residency Exhibition. South Dakota State University. Brookings. SD
2023	40 Years. Curated by Helgi Fríðjónsson. National Gallery of Iceland. Reykjavík, Iceland
2023	Prosthetic Conditions of Painting. Thames-Side Gallery. London, UK
2020	40 Years. Curated by Helgi Fríðjónsson. Galleri Gangur / The Corridor. Reykjavík, Iceland
2020	Touch Mc. Curated by Veronika Neukirch, London-based artist & curator. On-line / virtual exhibition
2020	Picture Palace. Curated by Cathy Lomax. Transition Gallery. London
2020	Peripheral. Manifest Gallery. Cincinnati, OH
2019	Small Things, Big Ideas. Barbara Davis Gallery. Houston, TX
2019	Re-Assemble. Collyer Bristow Gallery. London
2019	More Gravy. Tintype Gallery. London
2018	Emerge. Fulcrum Arts. Pasadena, CA
2018	Central St Martins Art Auction. Lethaby Gallery. London
2017	Mardi Gras Requiem. Project Space Plus. Lincoln, UK
2016	Grant Wood Fellowship. University of Iowa Museum of Art. Iowa City, IA
2016	Perfectionism III. Griffin Gallery. London
2016	Catlin Art Prize. London/Newcastle Project Space. London
2016	Polymer. Fold Gallery. London
2016	El Dorado. Curated by Juan Bolivar. Horatio Jr. London
2015	Bloomberg New Contemporaries. ICA. London
2014	John Moores Painting Prize. Walker Art Gallery. UK
2014	Painting about Painting. Simmons & Simmons. London
2014	Greece. LBCC Gallery. Long Beach, CA
2014	(Detail). Curated by Andrew Bracey. H Project Space. Bangkok, Thailand
2014	(Detail). Transition Gallery. London
2014	(Detail). The Usher Gallery. Lincoln, UK
2014	FleurduMal. Lion & Lamb Gallery. London
2014	FleurduMal. Charlie Smith Gallery. London
2014	Herm 0714a. Post Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2013	Beautiful Things. A & D Space. Liverpool, UK

2013	Terminus. With Jack Brindley. Hockney Gallery. London
2013	Slow is Smooth is Fast. Boetzelaer Nispen Gallery. Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2013	London Art Projects. Edel Assanti Gallery. London
2012	Happening. LACE. Los Angeles, CA
2011	By Chromed Hooves It Travels Now. Annie Wharton Art & Video. Los Angeles, CA
2011	Synthetic Real. Edel Assanti Gallery. London
2010	Desire is a Golden Carrot. The Albion. London
2010	The Manchester Contemporary. Mermaid & Monster. Manchester, UK
2010	A Harmonious Mix of Objects. Mihai Nicodim Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2010	Post Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2009	I've Watered a Horseshoe As If Were A Flower. Mihai Nicodim Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2009	Art LA International Art Fair. Mihai Nicodim Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2009	Seduction of Blossom. Long Beach City College Art Gallery. Long Beach, CA
2008	Mermaid & Monster. Contemporary Art Society. London
2008	Open Space. Art Cologne. Curated by Dan Hug. Kontainer Gallery. Cologne, Germany
2008	Dream(Land). Jail Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2007	Jerwood Contemporary Painters. Jerwood Space. London; The Lowry Manchester, UK
2007	The Lucifer Effect. Curated by Gordon Cheung. Gallery Primo Alonso. London
2007	Get It Louder. Curated by Newbetter & the British Council. Guangzhou, Shanghai & Beijing, China (Cat)
2006	Can Buildings Curate. Galerie Lucy Mackintosh. Switzerland
2006	Dubai. Kontainer Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2006	Gastrophoria. Curated by Andreas Leventis. Pump House Gallery. London
2005	Extreme Abstraction. The Albright Knox. Buffalo, NY
2005	Art Basel Miami. Henry Urbach Architecture. Miami, FL
2005	The Nature of Things. Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Birmingham, UK
2005	Can Buildings Curate. Architectural Association, London & StoreFront for Art & Architecture. New York, NY
2005	Rudiments of Ornamental Composition. LOT. Bristol, UK
2005	Group Show. Rodolphe Janssen Gallery. Brussels, Belgium
2005	Armory Show. Henry Urbach Architecture. New York, NY
2005	Air Borne. Henry Urbach Architecture. New York, NY
2004	Landscape Confection. Curated by Helen Molesworth; Wexner Center for the Arts. Columbus, OH; Contemporary Art Museum. Houston, TX; Orange County Museum of Art. Orange County, CA
2004	Expander. Royal Academy of Art. London
2004	Paradisiaco. DomoBaal. London
2004	Art Basel Miami. Henry Urbach Architecture. Miami, FL
2004	Live Forever or Die Trying. Curated by Twan Janssen. Torch gallery. Amsterdam
2004	Pleasure Garden. Nottingham Castle & Art Gallery. Nottingham, UK
2004	Tonight. Studio Voltaire. London, UK
2004	Cinderella. Tower Bridge Business Complex. London, UK
2004	Collezione I. Isabella Brancolini Contemporary, Curated by Stephen Hepworth. Florence, Italy
2004	Eyeful. Millais Gallery. Southampton, UK
2004	One Day. Corridor Gallery. Reykjavik, Iceland
2003	Physical World. APT London, UK
2003	Growth Company. With Hillary Bleecker. Kontainer Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
2002	Painting Class. Lethaby Gallery. London
2022	Island. 77 Gallery. London
2001	Schism. Pelican House. London
2000	Young Wales V. Royal Cambrian Academy. North Wales, UK

### Selected Curatorial Projects

2023	Prosthetic Conditions of Painting. Thames-Side Gallery. London, UK
2019	Transfer (On the Margin). Transition Gallery. Co-curated with Augustine Carr. London
2014	Finding A Form. POST. Los Angeles, CA
2014	Artists: Cody Trepte, Christopher Miles, Yelena Popova, Michael Freeman, Jack Brindley, Rachelle Rojany
2014	Tender Buttons. Hockney Gallery. London
2014	David Cyrus-Smith, Derek Boshier, Pearl C. Hsiung, Melanie Counsell, Karen Lofgren, Christopher Oliveria, Katrin Hanusch
2007	Viva Curandero. Kontainer (now Nicodim Gallery). Los Angeles, CA
	Artists: Rosha Yaghmai, Magali Reus, Dan Coombes, Ciprian Muresan

2007	Near Dark. Donna Beam Gallery. Las Vegas, NV
	Artists: Pearl C. Hsiung, Dennis Hollingsworth, Stephen Hendee, Carolyn Castaño
2005	But not as we know it. Co-curated with Deirdre King. APT Gallery, London & Kontainer, Los Angeles, CA. Supported by the British Council.
	Artists: David Burrows, Deirdre King, John Chilver, Jo Bruton, Twan Janssen, Jimmy Dyer, Dan Coombes, Peter Lamb, Luke Gottelier, Craig Fisher
2003	Temporary Fiction. Transition gallery. London
	Artists: Deirdre King, Danny Rolph, Peter Lamb, David Burrows, Hew Locke
2003	Painting Practices. 77 Gallery. London, UK
	Artists: Bob Matthews, Jost Munster, Luke Caulfield, Roland Hicks

### Public Lectures, Symposia and Panel Discussions

2021	What Now? Panel discussion. Royal College of Art. London, UK
2021	SCAD. Atlanta, GA
2021	University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Wales, UK
2020	Oscar Murillo & Neal Rock in Conversation. David Zwirner Gallery. Paris, France (online)
2020	Hampden-Sydney College. Hampden Sydney, VA
2020	Mary Baldwin University. Staunton, VA
2018	Painting Out of Self. South Dakota Museum of Art. Brookings, SD
2018	Prosthetic Conditions of Painting. University of Coventry. Coventry, UK
2018	Prosthetic Conditions of Painting. Pennsylvania State University. Allihies, Ireland
2017	Prosthetic Conditions of Painting. University of Wales Trinity St David. Wales, UK
2016	Art and Social Justice. Public Lecture. University of Iowa Museum of Art. Iowa City, IA
2014	Paint in an Expanded Field. School of Fine Art - Friday Event. Glasgow School of Art. Glasgow, UK
2014	Painting About Painting. Panel Discussion. Simmons & Simmons, UK. with artists: Andrea Medjesi-Jones, Alex Gough, Andrew Hewish. Chaired by David Stone
2013	Professional Practice. Public lecture. Royal College of Art. London,
2011	Art & Professional Practice. Public Lecture. Wimbledon School of Art. London
2010	Painting as a Material Practice. Symposium & panel discussion; With David Rayson RCA, Katie Pratt & Jo Bruton. University of Wolverhampton. Wolverhampton, UK
2010	Expanded Paint. Public Lecture. Birmingham Institute of Art & Design. London
2009	Fanestra & Other Works. Public lecture. The New Art Gallery Walsall. Walsall, UK
2007	Near Dark. Exhibition lecture and discussion. Donna Beam Gallery. UNLV. Las Vegas, NV
2007	Get It Louder. Artist Lecture & panel discussion. With Gavin Wade & Celine Condorelli; Organized by Newbetter & the British Council. Shanghai, China
2006	Polari Range & Faith Culture. Public lecture. University of Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire, UK
2005	Polari Range & Faith Culture. Public lecture. Metropolitan University. London
2004	Polari Range & Faith Culture. Public lecture. Central St Martins School of Art & Design. London

### Bibliography

2021	Oscar Murillo & Neal Rock in Conversation. Turps Banana Magazine. Spring Edition
2019	Embodied Relations. Juliet Magazine 192. Interview with Leda Cempellin
2016	Art History Creeps into the Catlin Art Prize. Review. Apollo Magazine. May Issue 2016
2015	What Is [A] Painting in the 21st Century? Eclectic Magazine. Dec 30th 2015. By Damilola Oshilaja
2014	Michael Freeman in Conversation with Neal Rock. Turps Banana #14. July Issue 2014
2009	What, The Devil? District Magazine. Long Beach. Wed Feb 18th. By Theo Douglas
2008	Seeking Solace in Another World. LA Times. May 27th. By Jessica Porter
2007	Darkness on the Edge of Town. Las Vegas City Life. 25th Jan. By Jarret Keene
2006	Architectural Splatter. Art Review. May Issue. By Payam Sharifi
2005	The Rudiments of Ornamental Composition. Art Monthly. Issue 286. 2005. By Sarah James

2005	Can Buildings Curate. Art Review. April Issue 2005. By Jay Merrick
2005	Landscape Confection. Columbus Dispatch. Feb 6th. By Christopher Yates
2005	Candy-Land. American Vogue. March 2005. By Nico Israel
2005	Neal Rock at Kontainer Gallery. LA Times. 19th March 2005. By Holly Myers
2004	Neal Rock. Gulliver Magazine. May Issue
2004	Rock Garden. Tank Magazine. Spring Issue
2004	Neal Rock & Erik Schmid At Henry Urbach Architecture. New York Times. April 19th
2004	Work From the Polari Range. A-N Magazine. Feb Issue. By John Deller
2004	Living off The Wall. Independent Education Supplement. Jan Issue. By Catherine Nixey
2004	Neal Rock at fa projects.The Independent. 13th Jan. By Sue Hubbard
2003	Work From the Polari Range. Modern Painters 12th November
2003	Neal Rock. Work From the Polari Range. Guardian Guide. 29th November

### Teaching History

2019 -	University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA; McIntire Department of Art; Assistant Professor of Art; Painting
2018 - 19	Coventry University. Coventry, UK; School of Art & Design; Visiting Lecturer in Fine Art
2015 - 16	University of Iowa. Johnson County, IA; School of Art & Art History; Grant Wood Visiting Assistant Professor of Painting & Drawing
2007	University of Nevada Las Vegas. Las Vegas, NV; Department of Art; Artist in Residence & Lecturer
2001	Kensington & Chelsea College. London, UK; Department of Art & Design; Foundation Lecturer

### Visiting Artist Positions

2020	Mary Baldwin University. Staunton, VA
2020	Hampden-Sydney College, VA
2019	Neath Port Talbot College. Port Talbot, UK; Foundation Art & Design
2018	South Dakota State University. Brookings, SD; Department of Design; Undergraduate - Studio Arts, Architecture & Design; Seminars, Group & One-to-One Critique
2018	Pennsylvania State University. Allihies, Ireland; Undergraduate & Graduate Summer Workshop
2017	UCL - Slade School of Fine Art. London, UK; BA Fine Art Sculpture
2017	University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Wales, UK; BA Fine Art
2017	Neath Port Talbot College. Port Talbot, UK; Foundation Art & Design
2015	Central Saint Martins School of Art & Design. London; BA Fine Art Painting
2014	Glasgow School of Art. Glasgow, UK; MA Fine Art
2014	Neath Port Talbot College. Port Talbot, UK; Foundation Art & Design
2013	University of Wolverhampton. Wolverhampton, UK; MA Fine Art
2011	University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA; Undergraduate Architecture
2011	Wimbledon School of Art & Design. London; BA Fine Art Painting
2011	Neath Port Talbot College. Port Talbot, UK; Foundation Art & design
2010	Central Saint Martins School of Art & Design. London; MA Fine Art
2010	Birmingham Institute of Art & Design. Birmingham, UK; BA Fine Art
2007	University of London Goldsmiths. London; MFA Fine Art
2006	University of Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire, UK; BA Fine Art Painting
2006	Kansas City Art Institute. Kansas City, KS; BFA sculpture
2006	Neath Port Talbot College. Port Talbot, UK; Foundation Art & Design
2006	Wimbledon School of Art & Design. London; BA Fine Art Sculpture
2005	Metropolitan University. London; BA Fine Art



