## ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY

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### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

# Atlanta Contemporary presents a solo exhibition by Tau Lewis

On view: January 11 - February 25, 2018 Exhibition Opening: Thursday, January 11, 6-9pm\*

**ATLANTA**— December 13 – <u>Atlanta Contemporary Art Center</u> (Atlanta Contemporary) is pleased to announce a solo exhibition with Tau Lewis.

Tau Lewis makes sculptures primarily with plaster and resin that address her Black Canadian hybrid identity. She casts her own body or the bodies of her friends as a way of turning the vulnerability lens on themselves exploring topics of individuality, collective identity, memory, self-image, gender, and sexuality. While the subjects of the faces she works with are very much alive, they frequently have their eyes closed - giving the feel of a death mask, a memento of the deceased that many cultures have used as a portrait or way of knowing and remembering those we have lost. She adds color to the masks by grinding and blending different artist chalk pastels each labeled 'skin-tone' or 'flesh-tone,' in a display of white privilege that is rampant through the Americas. Lewis' masks are likenesses of herself, are the features of black bodies, but without the pigmentation of African skin. This sense of placelessness and disembodiment and a true need for tangible self-understanding in a Canada whose cultural imaginary overwhelmingly white that runs incredibly deep in Lewis' work.

This exhibition continues Atlanta Contemporary's efforts to present and debut newly commissioned work by national/international artists to our community. Lewis' exhibition will be a fully new body of work.

**Tau Lewis** (b. 1993, Toronto) Solo and two-person exhibitions: Copper Cole Gallery, Toronto; 8-11 Gallery, Toronto; The Pendulum Project at Studio 223a, Toronto. Recent group exhibitions include: New Museum, New York; Night Gallery, Los Angeles; Sleep Center, New York; Galleri Tom Christo ersen, Copenhagen; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Cooper Cole, Toronto; Art Gallery of York University, Toronto; 116 Geary Ave, Toronto. Lewis lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

Tue-Sat 11am-5pm Thu open late until 8pm Sun 12 -4pm Mon Closed

535 Means St. NW Atlanta, GA 30318 404-688-1970 info@atlantacontemporary.org atlantacontemporary.org

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#### ABOUT ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY

Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit, non-collecting institution dedicated to the creation, presentation, and advancement of contemporary art by emerging and established artists. Atlanta Contemporary creates a diverse cultural landscape for artists, arts professionals, and the art-interested public through its exhibitions, educational programming, and studio artist program. Visit <u>atlantacontemporary.org</u> to learn more.

### All press inquiries, contact:

Daniel Fuller, Curator daniel@atlantacontemporary.org

#### Photos available on request.

\*The opening reception will be held in conjunction with Contemporary Cocktails, admission is free – cash/credit bar.

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