

Audrey Flack
Wheel of Fortune 1977-1978



In “Wheel of Fortune”, by Audrey Flack, many objects illustrate the nature of this fragile life. Again, a skull is present, both in reality and in the mirror’s reflection. A candle melts almost to the end, a die is cast, because in the end is fate anything more than a “roll of the dice”? A tarot card reveals the very human need to “see” the future, and the hourglass gives us a reminder of the passage of time, always marching on. There is also a picture in the background of a young girl which might represent youth. Even the lipsticks and jewels, though new and shiny in this moment, are to become muted and dull as years pass on. This piece seems to be about the passage of beauty in women, what we use to keep up the appearance of youth, and what is truly fading just under the surface. We can lacquer up and flourish ourselves in jewels and flowers, but in the end, the sands still drop through the hourglass, and the candle still melts away, and we still come closer and closer to the inevitable.