

TYLER MITCHELL. WISH THIS WAS REAL

March 28 – August 17, 2025

American photographer Tyler Mitchell is driven by dreams of paradise against the backdrop of history. Since his rise to prominence in the world of fashion, Mitchell has propelled a visual narrative of beauty, style, utopia, and the landscape that expands visions of Black life. Photo Elysée presents Mitchell's first solo exhibition in Switzerland, offering new perspectives on his long-standing themes of self-determination and the extraordinary radiance of the everyday, and showing how portraiture can be rooted in the past while evoking imagined futures.

In *Lives/Liberties*, Mitchell's early influences and immersion in skateboarding culture are reflected in images that pursue a dream of leisure, community, and self-expression amid societal unrest, including an early video, *Wish This Was Real* (2015), a startling and atmospheric reflection on innocence and political turmoil in contemporary America. In *Postcolonial/Pastoral*, reveries of paradise are underscored by the complexities of history and social identity, as Mitchell stages elaborate scenes in Georgia and rural New York and invites contemplation through vibrant landscapes and symbolic references. *Family/Fraternity* celebrates the resilience and agency of Black communities through intimate family portraits and still lifes, portraying the home as a sanctuary.

Central to the exhibition is a display called *Altars/Acres*, featuring photography and mixed media sculptures by artists whose work deeply resonates with Mitchell's own creative lineage, such as Garrett Bradley, Rashid Johnson, Baldwin Lee, Gordon Parks, Grace Wales Bonner, and Carrie Mae Weems. This unique intergenerational dialogue sets Mitchell's photography within a wide spectrum of experimentation, intellectual heritage, and cultural expression.

Tyler Mitchell. Wish This Was Real is curated by Brendan Embser and Sophia Greiff. Produced by C/O Berlin Foundation in collaboration with Tyler Mitchell Studios. This exhibition was made possible by Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne.



Tyler Mitchell, *Untitled (Sisters on the Block)*, 2021, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery © Tyler Mitchell



Tyler Mitchell, *Untitled (Topanga II)*, 2017, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery © Tyler Mitchell

Biography

Tyler Mitchell (b. 1995, USA) is a Brooklyn-based artist, photographer, and filmmaker. He received a bachelor of arts in film and television from New York University Tisch School of the Arts in 2017. Mitchell's work is held in numerous private and public collections, including the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia; Brooklyn Museum; Detroit Institute of the Arts; FOAM Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam; Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Pizzuti Collection of Columbus Museum of Art; National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC; and Cleveland Museum of Art.

In 2018 Mitchell was commissioned to photograph Beyoncé for American *Vogue's* September issue, making history, at the age of twenty-three, as the first Black photographer to shoot the magazine's cover. Mitchell's photography has also been published widely in magazines, including *Aperture*, *Dazed*, *i-D*, *Interview*, *M Le Monde*, *Vanity Fair*, *American* and *British Vogue*, *W*, *WSJ*, and *Zeit Magazin*. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world: *The New Black Vanguard* (Aperture Gallery, New York); *I Can Make You Feel Good* (FOAM, Amsterdam, and International Center of Photography, New York); *Social Works II* and *Chrysalis* (Gagosian Gallery, London); and *Domestic Imaginaries* (SCAD Gallery, Savannah, Georgia).

After being presented in Berlin and Helsinki in 2024, *Wish This Was Real* is making a stopover at Photo Elysée before its presentation in Paris in autumn 2025.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 27 at 10am: visit of the exhibition in the presence of Tyler Mitchell, Nathalie Herschdorfer and Brendan Embser, co-curator.

PRESS CONTACT

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Tyler Mitchell, *Curtain Call*, 2018, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery
© Tyler Mitchell

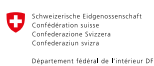


Tyler Mitchell, *Untitled (Blue Laundry Line)*, 2019, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery
© Tyler Mitchell

Global partner



Exhibition partners



Main partner – construction Photo Elysée



PRESS IMAGES

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Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery
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Tyler Mitchell, *Motherlan Skating*, 2019, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery © Tyler Mitchell



Tyler Mitchell, *Albany, Georgia*, 2021, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery © Tyler Mitchell



Tyler Mitchell, *Untitled (Red Steps)*, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery © Tyler Mitchell



Tyler Mitchell, *The root of all that lives*, 2020, Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian Gallery © Tyler Mitchell