

GAGOSIAN

Gagosian to Present First Tyler Mitchell Exhibition in London

Chrysalis Opens September 17, 2022



Tyler Mitchell, *A Glimpse of Possibility*, 2022, archival pigment print, 50 × 40 inches (127 × 101.6 cm), edition of 3 + 2 AP © Tyler Mitchell, image courtesy the artist; Jack Shainman Gallery, New York; and Gagosian

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Collectively, these moments become figments of an imaginative psychic state of being, one in which radiance, resistance, restraint, comfort, and full human agency exist.

—Tyler Mitchell

LONDON, August 10, 2022—Gagosian is pleased to present *Chrysalis*, an exhibition of new photographs by Tyler Mitchell. Opening September 17, it will be the gallery’s first solo exhibition of works by Mitchell, and his first in London.

Mitchell’s photographs and videos propose a utopian vision of Black beauty, desire, and belonging. For *Chrysalis*, he has produced photographs of youthful subjects in nature. Shot on location in upstate New York and in studios in New York and London in 2022, the images allude to the contemporary landscape while reflecting on the history of photographic images of Black people, particularly in the American South. Playfully theatrical and surreal, the works focus on Black figures and the landscapes they inhabit, incorporating visual signifiers of spirituality, transformation, and aspiration.

Chrysalis presents images of Black men and women in idyllic states of leisure and repose, safe and unencumbered by social expectations. In a photograph that shares its title with the exhibition, a

young man sleeps on a blanket-covered bed, within the protective cocoon of a mosquito net. *A Glimt of Possibility* represents a figure on a tire swing suspended above the surface of a lake, frozen in perfect equilibrium. *Treading* shows a boy's head emerging from the same lake as a large bunch of balloons floats in the image's center.

Mitchell uses land, water, and sky in both natural and artificial forms as symbols of possibilities and transformation. *Cage* depicts a woman posing before a painted backdrop of a garden surrounded by a white picket fence—a pictorial symbol of the artificial containment of nature. In the triptych *Protect from all Elements*, we see a figure actively creating his own universe by pulling a painted sky backdrop over a coffin-like structure holding tilled earth.

Juxtaposed with these images of subjects in harmony with nature are smaller photographs in which men are represented wading, swimming, and struggling in muddy water. From the mud-covered figure in *The Heart* to the cleansing currents of *Distillation* and muddy footprints of *Tenderly*, these works picture individuals affected by clashing elemental forces. As such, they assert the need to remain vigilant and resilient in the face of historical prejudice and unfulfilled commitments.

Tyler Mitchell was born in 1995 in Atlanta and lives and works in New York. He is represented by Jack Shainman Gallery. Collections include Foam Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam; National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC; Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY; Columbus Museum of Art, OH; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Exhibitions include *I Can Make You Feel Good Pt. 1*, Foam Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam (2019); *I Can Make You Feel Good Pt. 2*, International Center of Photography, New York (2020–21); *An Imaginative Arrangement of the Things Before Me*, Gordon Parks Foundation, Pleasantville, NY (2021); and *Sunlight, Shadow, and A Rainbow: Matt Eich and Tyler Mitchell*, Cleveland Museum of Art, OH (2022). In 2018, he became the first Black photographer to shoot the cover of *American Vogue*.

Mitchell's work is featured in *The New Black Vanguard*, an exhibition curated by Antwaun Sargent that will open at Saatchi Gallery, London, on October 28, 2022.

#TylerMitchell

TYLER MITCHELL

Chrysalis

Opening Saturday, September 17, 6–8pm

September 17–November 12, 2022

17–19 Davies Street, London

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