

NIGHT GALLERY

2050 Imperial Street, Los Angeles, California 90021

nightgallery.ca

TYLER MATTHEW OYER

Portraits 2019–2026

July 18 – August 15, 2026

Night Gallery is pleased to present *Portraits 2019–2026*, a photographic installation by Tyler Matthew Oyer. *Portraits 2019–2026* marks the most ambitious presentation of the artist's photography to date and will coincide with the launch of his fifth volume of portraits, *Portraits 2025*.

Tyler Matthew Oyer's *Portraits 2019–2026* operates at two registers simultaneously: the panoramic and the intimate. Comprising 360 four-by-six-inch photographs from the artist's archive, the installation wraps the entirety of the gallery in a single, unbroken horizon line of portraits. From a distance, the effect is almost minimalist—a continuous band of images encircling the space like a frieze or the quiet hum of a chord held just before it resolves. Move closer, and the chord breaks open: Beyoncé within the same work as Herbie Hancock, Barbara T. Smith, and the artist's own mother, Tana. People who have shaped culture, shaped each other, and shaped the artist are all presented at identical scale, in identical frames, without hierarchy.

Oyer, who describes his practice as "social photography," has spent the past seven years moving through the world with a camera, documenting the individuals around him as he finds them *in situ*—unrehearsed, as it happens. The subjects in *Portraits 2019–2026* arrived already themselves: their makeup, their bearing, their momentary expression entirely their own. No staging, no direction. What Oyer offers instead is sustained attention and the intimacy of genuine relationships, resulting in subjects who are captured as their most beautiful and radiant selves. These are colleagues, mentors, icons, and family, people encountered at openings, events, and shared moments in a life enriched by the culture that surrounds it. There are people in these photographs who are no longer alive. Their presence among the living gives the work an unexpected gravity.

The arrangement of the work is where the artist's hand becomes most legible. Oyer, a multihyphenate artist, has spoken of curating the installation's sequence the way a producer composes music, assembling disparate elements into a unified score, organizing individual sounds into something that becomes, collectively, a song. The juxtapositions are idiosyncratic,

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personal, and charged: figures who have never met placed in permanent adjacency; artists who have collaborated for decades reunited on the wall. Installed at a consistent height and continuous across the gallery, the work functions as a single totalizing piece. The arrangement is singular and unrepeatable, a unique work, even as the photographs themselves may appear in future iterations at different scales and in different spaces, their number and proportion shifting to answer each new room. The result is less a survey than a poem, Oyer's account of how individuals cohere into culture, and how culture coheres into something that might be called a world.

Portraits 2019–2026 coincides with the release of Oyer's fifth book of portraits, featuring model, singer, and performance artist Amanda Lepore on the cover, and comprising approximately 400 pages of his photographic archive. Oyer has photographed for brands such as Balenciaga, Dior, and Rick Owens and talents such as FKA Twigs, Robyn, and Britt Lower. His photography has been featured in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Vogue, Paper Magazine, and other publications.

Tyler Matthew Oyer (b. 1987, Pennsylvania) is an artist, writer, organizer, musician, and educator based between Los Angeles and Europe. His work has been presented at MoMA PS1, REDCAT, The Getty Museum, dOCUMENTA (13), Hammer Museum, MOCA Los Angeles, The Broad Museum, Munch Museum, Art Basel Miami Beach, and the Orange County Museum of Art, among others. He has premiered original performance works including *CALLING ALL DIVAS*, *VENUS*, and an adaptation of Ron Vawter's *Roy Cohn / Jack Smith*, and has released several original music albums, including *TENDERNESS* (2022) and *VENUS* (2025). His feature film adaptation of Charles Ludlam's *Conquest of the Universe or When Queens Collide* premiered in 2017. His photography has been featured in the New York Times, Vogue, Document Journal, i-D, and GQ, and he has worked with brands including Balenciaga, Dior, Hermès, and Nike. Oyer's work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art (NY), the Nevada Museum of Art, and the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, among others. He received an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 2012.