

Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans Transforms Studio Building for Month of August to Present Work by 40 Alumni Artists

The artist-curated exhibition “History or Premonition” reflects on Mitchell’s legacy through the work of artists who participated in her Foundation’s residency program.

JUNE 26, 2025 – On the occasion of Joan Mitchell’s Centennial and the Joan Mitchell Center’s 10th Anniversary, the Joan Mitchell Foundation presents the group exhibition *History or Premonition: A Legacy of Artistic Practice at the Joan Mitchell Center*, on view August 1-30 at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans. Curated by two artists and residency program alums, Josiah Gagosian (New Orleans) and Nyeema Morgan (Chicago), this multidisciplinary exhibition marks the first of its kind, presenting to the public the breadth of work and influence that Mitchell’s legacy has had on the lives of the over 300 artists who hail from, or came to, New Orleans as Artists-in-Residence at the Joan Mitchell Center.

The exhibition will be presented throughout the Studio Building at the Center, with artworks grouped within themes that relate to Mitchell’s own life and creative practice. The 40 exhibiting artists include Firelei Báez, Yanira Collado, Maren Hassinger, Demond Melancon, Carrie Moyer, Pat Phillips, Robert Pruitt, Lisa Sigal, Carlie Trosclair, jina valentine, John Isiah Walton, and Brittney LeeAnne Williams ([full list attached](#)). Following an opening reception on Friday, August 1 (6–9pm), viewing hours will be Fridays to Sundays, 12–5pm, from August 2-30.

“We see these dual milestones—the centennial of Joan Mitchell’s birth and the 10-year anniversary of the Joan Mitchell Center—as an opportunity to reflect on the artist community that has grown out of the Foundation’s programs for artists, and in particular, the artists who have worked and been in dialogue over the years at the Joan Mitchell Center,” said Christa Blatchford, Executive Director, Joan Mitchell Foundation. “The exhibition makes concrete the threads of connection between Mitchell and today’s visual artists—a web of artist-to-artist exchange that continues to grow outward.”

Established in 1993, the Joan Mitchell Foundation’s programs fulfill the painter’s wish, as stated in her will, that her foundation provide support to individual artists in their practices. Following more than two decades of grantmaking, the Foundation expanded its offerings to include a residency program, as a nod to the informal residencies Mitchell frequently offered to other artists, who she invited to come live and work at her home in France. The decision to locate the residency center in New Orleans followed many years of close work with artists and arts organizations in New Orleans through the Foundation’s grant

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programs. In 2015, the Joan Mitchell Center officially opened its two-acre campus in New Orleans' 7th Ward, following two years of off-site pilot programs in the French Quarter.

Now 10 years after its official opening, the Center has hosted more than 340 individuals, including artists local to New Orleans and former grant recipients of the Foundation, based elsewhere in the U.S. As a retreat for artists in a city rich with creative energy and cultural histories, the program offers time and space for creative work, and opportunities for Artists-in-Residence to exchange with their peers and others in the New Orleans community.

"The mix of local and national artists on campus is a hallmark of the Joan Mitchell Center's residency program, and has provided fertile ground for the program to really take root in New Orleans. There is always the potential for interchange within each cohort, in which local artists can be ambassadors of the city's culture, helping translate all that is so specific and remarkable about New Orleans for the national residents. In turn, the national residents bring with them resources, experience, and ways of working that can help open doors and expand the perspectives of the local residents. This exchange, along with dedicated time to delve into a practice in a supportive environment, is what makes this program so potent," said Stephanie Pearl Travers, Artist Programs Manager for the Joan Mitchell Center and Exhibition Manager for *History or Premonition*.

Travers continued, "We see the alumni exhibition as a wonderful opportunity to make visible the wide-ranging creative work that has taken place both in the residency's pilot years and here on Bayou Road, while paying homage to Joan Mitchell's legacy. While she never lived in New Orleans, I'd like to think that Mitchell would be proud of what has been done here at the Joan Mitchell Center as we carry forward the generosity and hospitality she showed to artists in her lifetime."

In planning the upcoming exhibition, curators Josiah Gagosian and Nyeema Morgan (both past participants in the residency program) drew inspiration from a collaboration that took place within Joan Mitchell's lifetime. The title, *History or Premonition*, comes from a poem by Nathan Kernan, written as part of a 1992 collaboration in which Mitchell persuaded him to provide the words to accompany her visual work. Gagosian and Morgan write: "The result is a work that speaks of connection and alienation, of memory as evinced by the experience of a landscape, one time and place perhaps evoking another long past, or hinting at something yet to come. Out of that foreshadowed future emerged something Mitchell might never have been able to envision: a foundation made up of the fabric of her history and her passions, and stewarded beyond her life by others caught up in the momentum of what she had set in motion. The artists featured in *History or Premonition* have their own

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relationship with time and place, their own memories, histories, and premonitions of a future in the process of being created.”

Gagosian and Morgan continue, “It is ultimately Mitchell’s support for other artists, in both community and collaboration, that defines her ongoing legacy... In this sense, her legacy branches beyond her own life and work to encompass the lives of a nationwide community of artists, taking root in a city rich with its own culture. In celebration of Mitchell’s living legacy, we are taking a moment to collectively witness work from that ever-expanding community.” ([Full Curators’ Statement is below.](#))

Visitor Information:

History or Premonition

August 1-30, 2025

Joan Mitchell Center
Studio Building
2275 Bayou Road
New Orleans, LA 70119

Opening reception: Friday, August 1, 6–9pm

Closing week Community Coffee & Panel Discussion: Wednesday, August 27, 10am–12pm

Free & open to the public August 2–30, Fridays–Sundays, 12–5pm

General Inquiries:

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joanmitchellfoundation.org

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History or Premonition Artist List

Scott Andresen, New Orleans, LA
Katrina Andry, New Orleans, LA
Firelei Báez, Miami, FL
Rollin Beamish, Bozeman, MO
Tyanna J. Buie, Providence, RI
Elenora Rukiya Brown, New Orleans, LA
Juan Angel Chavez, Chicago, IL
Sean G. Clark, New Orleans, LA
Yanira Collado, North Miami, FL
william cordova, North Miami, FL
M. Florine Démosthène, New York, NY
Clifton Faust, New Orleans, LA
Maren Hassinger, New York, NY
Elana Herzog, New York, NY
Miro Hoffman, New Orleans, LA
Horton Humble, New Orleans, LA
Soraya Jean-Louis, New Orleans, LA
Salvador Jiménez-Flores, Chicago, IL
Shana Kaplow, St Paul, MN
Camille Farrah Lenain, New Orleans, LA
Kaori Maeyama, New Orleans, LA
Demond Melancon, New Orleans, LA
Joshua Mintz, New Orleans, LA
Carrie Moyer, New York, NY
Lavar Munroe, Baltimore, MD
Anne C. Nelson, New Orleans, LA
Maia Cruz Palileo, Brooklyn, NY
Pat Phillips, Philadelphia, PA
Ryan Pierce, Portland, OR
Robert Pruitt, Houston, TX
Rontherin Ratliff, New Orleans, LA
Amy Schissel, Homestead, FL
Loren Schwerd, New Orleans, LA
Lisa Sigal, Brooklyn, NY
Carlie Trosclair, New Orleans, LA
jina valentine, Chicago, IL
Samantha Yun Wall, Portland, OR
Tom Walton, New Orleans, LA
John Isiah Walton, New Orleans, LA
Brittney Leeanne Williams, Los Angeles, CA



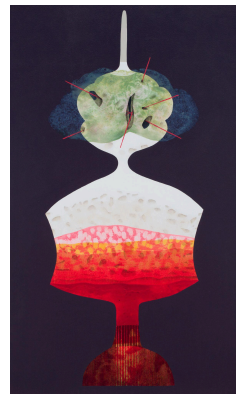
Sean G. Clark, *Clarity*, 2024



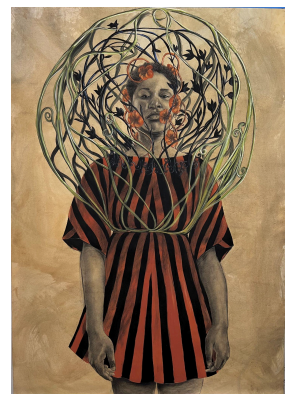
Samantha Yun Wall,
Wild Seeds, No. 3, 2024



Joshua Mintz, *Our House Swallows Moths*, 2021-2024



Carrie Moyer, *Mythic Being*, 2008



Robert Pruitt, *Birdsong*, 2025



Kaori Maeyama, *The Batture III: Refuge*, 2021

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History or Premonition Curators' Statement

"On the occasion of Joan Mitchell's Centennial and the Joan Mitchell Center's 10th Anniversary, the Joan Mitchell Foundation presents *History or Premonition*. This multidisciplinary exhibition marks the first of its kind, presenting to the public the breadth of work and influence that Mitchell's legacy has had on the lives of the over 300 artists who hail from, or came to, New Orleans as Artists-in-Residence at the Joan Mitchell Center.

"New Orleans is a place of environmental extremes, vivid colors, accelerated cycles of growth and decay, raucous celebration, laughter, sensuality, and close communities. The city is tenacious, full of rich cultural traditions and ceaseless creativity, as well as conflict, corruption, inequality, and the labyrinthine stories and histories of a place that seems simultaneously frozen in time and in perpetual flux.

"Joan Mitchell's work exhibits a kindred vitality, born out of a devotion to the landscapes of both France and the U.S. and filtered through time and memory into visceral gestures of sensation, sound, and color that continue to evoke and inspire. The title of the exhibition comes from a poem by Nathan Kernan, written as part of a collaboration with Mitchell, who persuaded him to provide the words to accompany her visual work. The result is a work that speaks of connection and alienation, of memory as evinced by the experience of a landscape, one time and place perhaps evoking another long past, or hinting at something yet to come.

"Out of that foreshadowed future emerged something Mitchell might never have been able to envision: a foundation made up of the fabric of her history and her passions, and stewarded beyond her life by others caught up in the momentum of what she had set in motion. The artists featured in *History or Premonition* have their own relationship with time and place, their own memories, histories, and premonitions of a future in the process of being created.

"It is ultimately her support for other artists, in both community and collaboration, that defines Mitchell's ongoing legacy. It is the seed which began with her desire for creative connection with others, be they painters, poets, friends, or lovers. In this sense, her legacy branches beyond her own life and work to encompass the lives of a nationwide community of artists, taking root in a city rich with its own culture. In celebration of Mitchell's living legacy, we are taking a moment to collectively witness work from that ever-expanding community."

– Josiah Gagosian and Nyeema Morgan, Exhibition Curators, with Stephanie Pearl Travers, Exhibition Manager

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About the Curatorial Team

Josiah Gagosian was raised in the Pacific Northwest and studied painting and English Literature at the University of Oregon. A descendant of both Ottoman-Armenian converts to Mormonism and Mexican *fronterizos*, his work is rooted in themes of religion and mythos, history, genealogy, sexuality and the tangled exegesis of identity that so often lies at the heart of the intersectional experience. He merges drawing, painting, collage, and sculpture using complex, intentionally laborious processes intended to encourage prolonged engagement. Gagosian has resided in New Orleans since 2005. He completed his MFA at the University of New Orleans in 2020, where he now teaches painting and color theory. He is a former Artist-in-Residence at the Joan Mitchell Center and has recently curated group exhibitions in collaboration with the John Burton Harter Foundation, highlighting the work of the LGBTQ+ artist community of New Orleans.

Nyeema Morgan (b. Philadelphia, PA) is a contemporary visual artist working in sculpture, drawing and print based media. Morgan's solo exhibitions include *Soft Power. Hard Margins.* (2022), Grant Wahlquist Gallery, Portland, ME; *The Set-up*, PATRON Gallery, Chicago, IL; *Like It Is*, The Philadelphia Art Alliance at the University for the Arts, Philadelphia, PA; and *THE STEM. THE FLOWER. THE ROOT. THE SEED.* (2020), Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at the Worcester Museum of Art, Worcester, MA; Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME; Marlborough Gallery Viewing Room, NYC, NY; The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI; Galerie Jean Roch Dard, Paris, France, and The Drawing Center, NYC, NY. Morgan earned an MFA from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco CA, a BFA from the Cooper Union School of Art in New York, NY and is an alum of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

Stephanie Pearl Travers is an organizer, writer, curator, and deep dreamer whose work centers community care. As the Artist-Centered Program Manager at the Joan Mitchell Center, she is responsible for the administration, assessment and refinement of the residency program and acts as a primary contact and resource for artists. Previously, Stephanie was the founding editor-in-chief of the New Orleans arts publication the Iron Lattice, as well as the instigator and creative director behind the community art project 912 Julia. She also started the initiative Free Mental Healthcare for New Orleans Artists in partnership with WeHelpNola, a program that provided free holistic mental health services for 50 artists for a year in the wake of the pandemic. Stephanie attended the University of Washington and worked primarily in restaurant hospitality before finding her way to the visual arts. Originally from Central Florida, she has called New Orleans home since 2013.

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About the Joan Mitchell Foundation

The Joan Mitchell Foundation cultivates the study and appreciation of artist Joan Mitchell's life and work, while fulfilling her wish to provide resources and opportunities for visual artists. As the steward of Joan Mitchell's legacy, the Foundation manages a collection of Mitchell's artwork and archives containing her personal papers, photographs, sketchbooks, and other historical materials. Fulfilling Mitchell's mandate to "aid and assist" living artists, over the past 32 years the Foundation has evolved a range of initiatives that have directly supported more than 1,300 visual artists at varying stages of their careers. The Joan Mitchell Fellowship gives annual unrestricted awards of \$60,000 directly to artists, with funds distributed over a five-year period alongside flexible professional development and convenings that facilitate community building and peer learning. The New Orleans-based Joan Mitchell Center hosts residencies for national and local artists, complemented by professional development offerings, open studio events, and other public programs that encourage dialogue and exchange with the local community. The Creating a Living Legacy (CALL) initiative provides free and essential resources to help artists of all ages organize, document, and manage their artworks and careers. Together, these programs actively engage with working artists as they develop and expand their practices. For more information, visit joanmitchellfoundation.org.