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Tilt Institute For The Contemporary Image Presents
Shikeith: People Who Die Bad Don't Stay in the Ground

Philadelphia, PA | August 14, 2025 – Beginning September 11 through November 22, [TILT Institute for the Contemporary Image](#) (TILT), debuts visual artist Shikeith's first solo exhibition in his hometown of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Inspired by a resonant line from Toni Morrison's seminal novel *Beloved*, ***People Who Die Bad Don't Stay in the Ground***, delves deeply into the artist's ongoing investigation of the hauntological encounters and lived realities of Black men and boys. Through a rich and varied multidisciplinary practice encompassing photography, video, and installation, the exhibition chronicles the enduring legacy of historical traumas and their persistent reverberations across successive generations, actively resisting attempts at erasure and historical amnesia. Shikeith's otherworldly aesthetic intricately situates the experiences of Black men and boys within a disquieting temporal collapse, where the weight of the past does not merely inform the present, but relentlessly intrudes upon it, perpetually reshaping contemporary existence. This exhibition offers a space to contemplate the intergenerational impact of injustice within the backdrop of a fraught history that remains unreconciled and continues to impact the lives of those whose narratives have often been silenced, yet continue to call out to us from beyond.

Exhibition Programs

The **Opening Reception** for the exhibition will be on **Thursday, September 11, 2025**, from **6-9pm**. Additional programming includes a conversation between **Shikeith and Peter Barberie**, The Brodsky Curator of Photographs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, on **Friday, November 7, 2025**, from **6-7pm**. Both events will take place at TILT's gallery located at 1400 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122.

Artist Biography

With a complex multidisciplinary practice, [Shikeith \(b. 1989; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania\)](#) interrogates the sociopolitical structures and histories that oppress the psychological landscapes of marginalized communities. Influenced by his interest in hauntology and spiritual traditions from the African diaspora, Shikeith's artwork both mines and speculates on methodologies of disentangling and reconciliation. His photographs employ magical realist aesthetics, creating elusive compositions challenging gender norms and asking viewers to engage with the invisible forces that shape their perception of the subjects depicted and self. Shikeith earned a BA in Integrative Arts from the Pennsylvania State University and a MFA from the Yale School of Art, New Haven, Connecticut. He currently resides and works in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Exhibition Photographs

Selected images of artwork from the exhibition are available upon request. Images are provided exclusively to the press and only for purposes of publicity of the current exhibition, programs, and news announcements. All images must be accompanied by a credit line to the artist and copyright information, if applicable. The party reproducing the images must not alter them in any form.

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About TILT Institute for the Contemporary Image

Founded in 2009, TILT Institute for the Contemporary Image is an artist-focused institution rooted in Philadelphia with an international reach. TILT is centered on the importance of contemporary image-making as an ever-evolving art form. In doing so, the organization seeks to build and support a just and equitable community of dedicated visual creatives and audiences. TILT works to cultivate a space built upon trust and respect to engage in socially conscious dialogue through exhibitions, fine art printing, programs, artist residencies, youth education, and adult classes. TILT is located in the Crane Arts Building (1400 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA) in the heart of the flourishing arts corridor in South Kensington. TILT's galleries are free and open to the public.