



STORE
SAN FRANCISCO

JOSH SMITH THE FIRST YEARS

Exhibition Dates: April 7 - June 14, 2025

Artist Reception: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 5:00-8:00 PM



Josh Smith
Thomas Tent and Leg, 2019

The Gallery at Leica Store San Francisco is proud to present ***The First Years*** by Bay Area artist **Josh Smith**. This ongoing series explores family and how its structure shapes identity. Rooted in personal experience, Smith uses photography to navigate the complexities of parenthood—balancing presence with individuality. His images create an open space for viewers to reflect on their own histories.

Now in its tenth year, the project has evolved from documentary into orchestrated vignettes, blending reality and fiction. Smith's process follows the rhythms of family life, combining spontaneity with constructed scenes. His compositions obscure individual identity, fostering universal self-reflection. Through unconventional framing, gestures, and emotional depth, these photographs create contemplative spaces filled with unresolved narratives.

While the intensity of parenting fades with time, *The First Years* serves as an attempt to hold onto what cannot be preserved. Acting as both a personal archive and a poetic interpretation, these images capture fleeting moments, offering a connection to the intangible emotions of family life.



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ABOUT THE ARTIST



Josh Smith
Portrait by Wayne Serrano

Originally from Springfield, Missouri, **Josh Smith** earned his M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2007 and has been living and working in the Bay Area since 2004. Smith has exhibited widely within the Bay Area and beyond, including exhibitions at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, Blue Sky Gallery in Portland, OR, Center for Photographic Art in Monterey, CA, and the Jack Fischer Gallery in San Francisco, CA. His most recent work, *The First Years*, has been showcased in numerous publications, including *Oxford American*, *Fotofilmic*, *Three Penny Review*, and *Zone* magazine (forthcoming). In 2018, a monograph of ***The First Years*** was published by Dark Springs Press.

Smith was a Visiting Professor at the San Francisco Art Institute and is currently the photography instructor at Eastside College Prep in East Palo Alto, CA. Smith resides in Pacifica, CA, with his wife and three children.

PRESS INQUIRIES

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