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Tyler Shields Returns to Cincinnati for Miller Gallery Show 'Provocateur' opens tonight



Tyler Shields, "Batman"

American photographer and firebrand Tyler Shields makes his return to Cincinnati for a Miller Gallery exhibition as part of the ongoing FotoFocus Biennial.

This is Shields' second appearance at the Miller Gallery in conjunction with FotoFocus, first appearing in 2012 with *Controlled Chaos*. This year's exhibit — *Provocateur* — opens tonight and he's been shooting in various locations locally throughout the week.

Of all the superlatives to describe Shields and his work, "provocateur" might be most suitable of all. He's gained a level of notoriety for his past exhibits and photo shoots, including a 2011 exhibit that substituted paint

for the fresh blood of 25 rich and famous celebrities.

Shields has successfully merged the world of art with celebrity, similar to fellow rebel-rouser Andy Warhol.

He's taken racy and playful photos of Lindsay Lohan, Kathy Griffin, Abigail Breslin and the entire cast of *Revenge*.

His work can also be seen as a companion to Jay Z and Kanye West's *Watch the Throne*, using the medium of photography to exhibit grandeur, fame and the excesses of materialism. His works have seen the destruction of a \$100,000 Hermès Birkin bag and the detonation of a vintage Rolls Royce — all in the name of art, of course.



His latest Cincinnati exhibit yet again pushes his subjects and the limits of what photography can be. His exhibit takes risks, but also presents the germination for pensive and reflective thought.

But of all the superlatives and excessive descriptors for his work, nothing beats seeing the real thing. Make sure *Provocateur* is a part of your 2014 FotoFocus experience.

The opening party takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Miller Gallery (2715 Erie Ave., Hyde Park) and continues through Nov. 8. Go [here](#) for more information.