

Christopher Williams *standard pose*

27 November 2021–29 January 2022
108 rue Vieille du Temple
75003 Paris



Christopher Williams, *Model-Nr.: 1740 Rotznasen - Kinder Model*
Agentur Liesegangstr 7A. 40211 Düsseldorf Studio Rhein Verlag,
Düsseldorf, January 28, 2016.

© Christopher Williams, Courtesy the artist and David Zwirner

Apples, soap, haystacks, a centerfold model, a rooster, children at play, a man with a camera in a freshly laundered shirt, and a smiling four-year-old girl. *standard pose*, an exhibition of works by Christopher Williams, on view at the Paris gallery.

The photographs in this exhibition are the product of Williams's decades-long engagement with public pictures, ordinary pictures, or pictorial types. This exhibition is not made up of images of reality, but rather the reality of these images.

Several of these color and black-and-white photographs, many from Williams's iconic series *For Example: Dix-Huit Leçons Sur La Société Industrielle* (2005–2014), have not been exhibited since the artist's celebrated 2014–2015 retrospective *The Production Line of Happiness*, which was presented at the Art Institute of Chicago; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Whitechapel Gallery, London.

From Williams's open letter dated April 29, 2016, which relates to this group of works:

"As if I told you

She is German. She is white. She is a professional within the field of image production. She is an instrument, a medium, a figure in an equation. She is paid to produce the signs of innocence and happiness. She is a worker in a network of economies beyond her comprehension. She is an air hostess for Lufthansa. She is the Playmate of the Year. She is a worker in the domestic industry. She is the producer of family well-being. She is the provider of a good atmosphere. She creates the conditions of emotional richness. She decorates the house, prepares the meals, she produces new producers. She is a worker in the service of the smile. She is a model. She hits her

marks on cue. She is four years old. Her future will unfold within a rich warm palette of Eastern desert browns, ochres, and yellows, with textures and accents provided by the dark greys and blacks of Brussels and Paris.”

The exhibition in Paris, the artist’s first solo show in the French capital since 1999, follows Williams’s 2020 presentation at the gallery’s 34 East 69th Street location in New York, *Footwear (Adapted for Use)*, and will mark his tenth solo show with David Zwirner.

Christopher Williams was born in Los Angeles in 1956. Since 1999, his work has been represented by David Zwirner. In spring 2021, Williams’s solo exhibition *werbung: adapted for use* was on view at Haubrok Foundation, Berlin, and in 2019 to 2020, C/O Berlin presented a solo show titled *MODEL: Kochgeschirre, Kinder, Viet Nam (Angepasst zum Benutzen)*.

Christopher Williams: The Production Line of Happiness marked the artist’s first major museum survey, which spanned thirty-five years of work. The exhibition was first on view at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2014, followed by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Whitechapel Gallery, London, in 2015. Also in 2014, Williams was the first artist to receive the Photography Catalogue of the Year, presented by the Paris Photo–Aperture Foundation PhotoBook Awards, for the two volumes specially designed and published on the occasion of his touring survey, *Christopher Williams: The Production Line of Happiness* (exhibition catalogue) and *Christopher Williams: Printed in Germany* (artist book).

Other solo exhibitions include those held at Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover (2018); La Triennale di Milano (2017); ETH Zurich, Institute gta, Zurich (2017); Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany (2011); Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium (2011); Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Germany (2010); Bergen Kunsthall, Norway (2010); Kunsthalle Zürich (2007); Museu Serralves, Porto, Portugal (2006); Secession, Vienna (2005); and Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany (2005).

Museum collections which hold works by the artist include the Art Institute of Chicago; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He lives and works in Cologne and Los Angeles.

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