

Mitchell Anderson, *Rockets*

23.01 – 03.04.2026

At the Centre d'édition contemporaine in Geneva, Mitchell Anderson (b. 1985) presents a new edition and related exhibition tracing the genealogies and ongoing legacy of postwar rocketry.

Appearing in news stories of billionaires' pleasure cruises into space, the daily bombing of civilian infrastructure, and renewed interest in space exploration by global powers, the rocket has returned as a contemporary global icon. A condensé of anxieties about possible futures, it haunts real-time media as much as children's commodified dreams and concrete nightmares.

Using actual graphite relics from WWII-era V-2 rockets, from which all modern rocketry descends, Anderson has produced an edition of coloring pages based on children's drawings of rockets, alongside large-scale wall drawings of rocket trajectories and related works that traverse handicraft and the readymade. The rocket is approached as a continuous trajectory, carrying both wonder and violence, whose ascent, use, and impact remain inextricable.

--

Mitchell Anderson's artistic approach draws on a variety of cultural and historical materials, both sought out and found. In his work, encaustic, embroidery, and writing form a technical repertoire that the artist uses to translate and structure primary sources. Through encoding and the recurring play of colors and symbols, the objects produced explore how the accumulation and circulation of signs come to normalize cultural values and practices.

Beyond the commercial nature of things, his objects generously offer themselves to the gaze. They allow for multiple interpretations that ultimately point to the contradictions inherent in the construction of a democratic, shared or public environment. Sensitive to context, Anderson's work uses objects to evoke residual histories and their latent potentials, forcing contemporary art's discourse to confront its own complicity.

Mitchell Anderson was born in 1985 in Chicago, USA. He lives and works in Zurich. Recent solo exhibitions include : *Starship Troopers*, Stiftung BINZ39, Zurich (2025) ; *Sonnet*, Galerie Bernheim, London (2025) ; *Landschaftsgemälde*, Kunsthalle 8000, Wädenswil (2023) ; *Moon Piece, The Apostle and Related Works*, Fondazione Converso, Milano (2019) ; *as mountain winds*, Kunsthalle Friart Fribourg, Fribourg (2017). His work has been featured in group exhibitions such as : *Kunststipendien der Stadt Zurich*, Helmhaus, Zurich (2025) ; *Mirror Map*, Fondation Opale, Lens (2025) ; *Great Works*, Galerie Oskar Weiss, Zurich (2025) ; *Pictures & After*, MAMCO, Geneva (2023) ; *Lose Enden*, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern (2021) ; *Sommer des Zögers*, Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich (2019). With Daniel Baumann, he recently curated the Zurich Biennial I (2023) and II (2025). He is represented by Bernheim Gallery, Zurich/London, and has been running the artist space Plymouth Rock in Zurich, since 2014.

The edition

Mitchell Anderson, *Rockets*

Edition of 25

21 x 29,7 cm

Numbered, dated and signed

+ 5 e.a. et 4 H.C.

2025

Price : 250.-

20 coloring pages inclusive of a full set of 16 individual motifs, forms derived from children's drawings executed globally since 1944, on Alt Lünen weiss paper, 230 g/m², A4; colophon on Kolma snap envelope Easy A4 with zip closure; silkscreened with graphite from V-2 Rocket rudder fragment (Germany, c. 1944) by Lorenz Boegli at Atelier für Siebdruck, Müntschemier; box of 6 Caran d'Ache Swisscolor Aquarelle colored pencils. Edition of 25 plus 5 A.P. and 4 H.C., numbered, dated and signed. Edition of the Centre d'édition contemporaine, Genève, 2026.

Artworks in the exhibition

Red planet piece, 2025

Inflatable, printed Oxford nylon, c. 250 x 50 x 40 cm

Beyond the Zero, 2026

Wall drawing with V-2 Rocket graphite rudder fragment (Germany, c. 1944), variable dimensions

In the Zone, 2026

Wall drawing with V-2 Rocket graphite rudder fragment (Germany, c. 1944), variable dimensions

Jacob's Ladder, 2025-26

Encaustic and pulverized V-2 Rocket graphite rudder fragment (Germany, c. 1944), 120 x 80 x 9 cm

Rainbow (Manet-Degas), 2025-26

Encaustic and pulverized V-2 Rocket graphite rudder fragment (Germany, c. 1944), 120 x 80 x 9 cm

Red flag, 2025

Hand embroidery on Swiss flag, flagpole, variable dimensions (flag, 80 x 80 cm ; flagpole, 210 cm long)

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Pro Helvetia, the Canton of Zurich, and the Ernst and Olga Gubler-Hablützel Foundation for their support of this project.

The CEC is supported by the Department of culture and digital transition of the City of Geneva, the Canton of Geneva, the Loterie Romande and a private Geneva foundation.

