

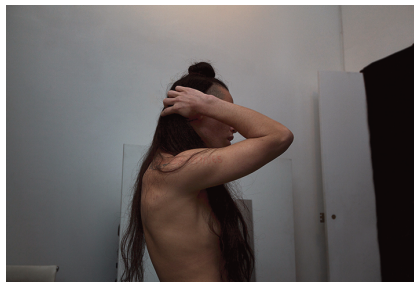
## CLIFTON BENEVENTO

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# MOUSSE

UNITED STATES - LOS ANGELES  
Michael Benevento

Wu Tsang  
until July 7



For his show at Michael Benevento in Los Angeles, LA-based filmmaker Wu Tsang is presenting two new videos, *MISHIMA IN MEXICO* and *Tied and True*, along with a series of self-portraits that will occupy the second space of this California gallery. In the first film, *MISHIMA IN MEXICO*, Tsang draws inspiration from Yukio Mishima's *Thirst for Love* to create a series of intimate tableaux. The original novel is a dark, twisted romance set in 1950s Japan. Tsang adapts it into a story that is part melodrama, part docu-fantasy, exploring themes of jealousy, desire, camp, and tragedy. *Tied and True*, on the other hand, explores integration and alterity in a world where – despite a developed and liberated sense of tolerance – racism and disparity are still predominant features of society. Set in a hybrid landscape that blends St. Louis, Senegal, and Los Angeles, the film is inspired by Douglas Sirk's *All That Heaven Allows* and Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *Ali: Angst Essen Seele Auf*. The protagonists are a Senegalese royal and a British working-class interloper whose love first triumphs, then quails under the pressures of the outside world. This leads us to question whether the equalizer of love and connection can win out over the constructions of difference and self.