

CAITLIN AND MICHAEL'S WYTHE HOTEL WEDDING IN BROOKLYN



Photography: Leila Brewster Photography

THE LOCATION

Caitlin Johnson and Michael Dowd's first encounter took place one night, unfolding like a scene from a movie. Caitlin was walking home in the lower east side of Manhattan carrying heavy bags of groceries. "A homeless man in front of me started to yell that I was too close to him and then followed me to my front door," Caitlin says. Frightened, she was struggling to figure out what to do when a man rode by on a bicycle. Noticing what was going down, he used his bicycle as a barricade and then turned to Caitlin and told her to simply "get inside." "I walked all the way up to my fifth floor walk-up and, after regaining my composure, knew I needed to find my knight," Caitlin says. She immediately placed an ad on Craigslist's Missed Connections, which Michael, her unknown hero, happened to check later that night. After writing to her through the ad, the two had their first date.

Two years later, Michael, a master's student at MIT, popped the question on the morning of Caitlin's birthday. Caitlin, an advisor for the art lease start-up TurningArt, wanted to open her presents. "Michael had wrapped up a spoon in a long box and when I looked up confused, he was holding a ring," Caitlin says. "I hadn't even brushed by teeth. It was awesome." The now Boston-based pair, who consider themselves New Yorkers at heart, decided on an intimate summer wedding on July 19, 2014, at Brooklyn's Wythe Hotel with 67 guests in attendance. With an art background, the bride dreamed up an event inspired by post-minimalism, Dutch still-lives, and the notion of decay—using blood red, burgundy, black, blushes, and flesh tones.



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THE FIRST DANCE



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THE DINNER



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THE BRIDESMAIDS



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THE CEREMONY



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THE RECEPTION SETUP