

FRAENKEL

RALPH EUGENE MEATYARD

25 May 1925 – 7 May 1972

Born in Normal, Illinois

SELECTED INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

2025

The Family Album of Ralph Eugene Meatyard, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

2023

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: Georgetown Street, University of Kentucky Art Museum,
Lexington, KY

2022

The Photographs of Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans,
LA

Ralph Eugene Meatyard's "The Unforeseen Wilderness", The Speed Art Museum, Louisville,
KY

2019

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: Stages for Being, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington,
KY (touring); traveling to Bates Art Museum, Lewiston, ME

2018

The Family Album of Lucybelle Crater, DC Moore Gallery, New York, NY

2017

American Mystic, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2015

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: Wildly Strange, Harry Ransom Collection at Blanton Museum of
Art, Austin, TX

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, DC Moore Gallery, New York, NY

2012

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Peter Freeman, Inc., New York, NY

Gitterman Gallery, New York, NY

2011-12

Dolls & Masks, travelling exhibition: Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

2007

Abstractions 1957-1972, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2005

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Lucybelle Crater & Others, Galerie Gabrielle Maubrie, Paris, France

2004-05

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, International Center of Photography, New York, NY

2003

Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York, NY

2002

The Family Album of Lucybelle Crater, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2000

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: Real Than Real, Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago IL

1998

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan, Italy

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: Master Prints, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY

1996

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto, Canada

1991-92

An American Visionary (touring); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San

Francisco, CA; Oklahoma City Art Museum, Oklahoma City, OK; National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC; Newport Harbor Art Museum,

Newport Beach, CA; Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH; Orange County Museum of Art,
Newport Beach, CA

1991

Comptoir de la photographie, Paris, France

1990

Jan Kesner Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1989

Tartt Gallery, Washington, DC

1987

Hewlett Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

1983

Olympus Gallery, London, England

Prakapas Gallery, New York, NY

1981

Yuen Lui Gallery, Seattle, WA

1977

Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

1975

Madison Art Center, Madison, WI

1974

Carl Siembab Gallery, Boston, MA

1973

Witkin Gallery, New York, NY

1972

Charles W. Bowers Memorial Museum, Santa Ana, CA

Columbia College Photography Gallery, Chicago, IL

Focus Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Light Impressions, Rochester, NY

Matrix Gallery, Hartford, CT

Northeast Louisiana State College, Monroe, LA

Watson Gallery, Elmira College, Elmira, NY

1971

School of the Art Institute of Chicago Gallery, Chicago, IL

J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY

Picker Gallery, Dana Arts Center, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

Steinrock Gallery, Lexington, KY

1970

Selections from the Family Album of Lucybelle Crater, Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL; traveled to Creative Photography Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA (1971); Center for Photographic Studies, Louisville, KY; Ohio University, Athens, OH; Student Center Gallery, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY; Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, NY; George Eastman House, Rochester, NY Ohio University, Athensm OH (photographs & assemblages)

1967

Speed Museum, Louisville, KY

Doctor's Park, Lexington, KY

Bellarmine College, Louisville, KU

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

1966

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

1965

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

1964

El Mochuelo Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

1963

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

1962

Carl Siembab Gallery, Boston, MA

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

1961

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

1959

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Dynamic Duos, Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA

2024

Fraenkenstein, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Seen Together: Acquisitions in Photography, The Morgan Library and Museum, New York, NY

Fragile Beauty: Photographs from the Sir Elton John and David Furnish Collection, V&A South Kensington, London, United Kingdom

A Long Arc: Photography and the American South since 1845, Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, VA

2023

Photographs from *The Family Album of Lucybelle Crater 1970-72* from the SFMOMA Permanent Collection, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA

A Time of Gifts: Six Years of Photographs Given to the Collection, 2016-2022, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA

A Long Arc: Photography and the American South since 1845, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

2019

After Virginia, CHART, New York, NY

Bard X HGG, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY

2018

No Time, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

2017

Collected, Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco, CA

2016

Kentucky Renaissance: The Lexington Camera Club & Its Community, 1954-1974, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH

2016

Ralph Eugene Meatyard & Duane Michals: Camera Drama, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, KY

2015

Edgelands, Camden Arts Centre, London, England

Multiverse, DC Moore Gallery, New York, NY

Up Close, James Harris Gallery, Seattle, WA

2014-15

Disturbing Innocence, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY

2014

ghost outfit, team gallery, New York, NY

2013

The Unphotographable, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2012

Charles Burchfield | Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

The Absentee Landlord, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

Silver Curtain, Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Mutables, Eli Ridgeway Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2011

The Clearest Pictures were at First Strange (1965 - 1973), LE BAL, Paris, France

2010

Furthermore: 30th Anniversary Exhibition, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Les Suds Profonds de L'Amerique: Photographies de Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Clarence John

Laughlin & Alex Harris, Pavillon Populaire, Galerie d'Art Photographique de la ville de Montpellier, France

2008

Beyond the Backyard, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL

Presumed Innocence: Photographic Perspectives of Children, DeCordova Museum,
Lincoln, MA

2007

25 Years: A Celebration, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY

A Selection of Exceptional Vintage Photographs, Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago, IL

2006

Mascarada, DA2 – Domus Artium 2002, Salamanca, Spain

20éme Anniversaire de la Galerie, Galerie Gabrielle Maubrie, Paris, France

2005

Family Photos from Home, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY

Beyond Real: Part 1 Dressing Up, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney, Australia

2004

Portraits/Autoportrait, Galerie Guy Ledune, Brussels, Belgium

2003

The Eye Club, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

La Vita Delle Forme, Galleria Civica Modena, Modena, Italy

Flesh Tones: 100 Years of the Nude, Robert Mann Gallery, New York, NY

The Faceless Figure – Photographs from the Collection, Philadelphia Museum of Art,
Philadelphia, PA

2000

Moodstruck: Photographs from the Permanent Collection, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst

Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA

1990

Photos de Famille, La Villette (La Grande Halle), Paris, France

1989

Abstraction in Photography, Zabriskie Gallery, New York, NY

The Lexington Camera Club 1939-1972, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, KY

Evolving Abstractions in Photography, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York, NY

1988

Vanishing Presence, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Canada; Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Virginia Museum of fine Arts, Richmond, VA

1987

True Stories & Photofictions, Fotogallery, Cardiff, Wales; traveled to six venues in Wales
Modern Photography & Beyond, National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan

1986

Staging the Self: Self-Portrait Photography, 1840s-1890s, National Portrait Gallery, London, England
Photography: A Facet of Modernism, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

1985

Images of Excellence, organized by the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House, Rochester, NY (touring); IBM Gallery of Science and Art, New York, NY to 1987; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA; Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids, IA; Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
Celebrating Two Decades in Photography, Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

1984

The Southern Tradition: Five Southern Photographers, Atlanta Gallery of Photography, Atlanta, GA
Subjective Vision: The Lucinda W. Bunnen Collection of Photographs, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

1981

Southern Eye, Southern Mind: A Photographic Inquiry, University Gallery, Memphis State University, Memphis, TN

1979

Photographic Surrealism (touring); New Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, OH; Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH & Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn NY

1978

'I Shall Save One Land Unvisited': Eleven Southern Photographers (touring); organized by Squires Art Gallery, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Blacksburg, VA; opening at Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

1977

Photographs, 1977, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
The Grotesque in Photography, University of Bridgeport, CT; Neil Krug Galleries, New York, NY

1976

Past into Present: Prints from the Monsen Collection of American Photography, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA

Local Light: Photographs Made in Kentucky, Center for Photographic Studies, Louisville, KY; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

1974

Photography in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

1973

1972-73 New Acquisitions, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

1972

Photography '72, J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY
The Multiple Image, Creative Photography Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

1971

Photographs from the Coke Collection, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY
Lexington Camera Club 1971 Print Exhibition, Kentucky Educational Television Gallery, Lexington, KY

1970

Photographs for Sale, Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, NY
Photography, 1970, Lexington Camera Club, Lexington, KY (catalogue)

Be-ing Without Clothes, Hayden Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge, MA

1969

Photographs from the Coke Collection, Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM

Recent Acquisitions, Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, CA

The Camera & the Human Façade, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian
Institute, Washington, DC

Light, Hayden Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

1968

Contemporary Photographs, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Quivera Gallery, Corrales, New Mexico, NM

Five Photographers, University of Nebraska, NE (catalogue)

Photography 1968, Lexington Camera Club, Lexington, KY (catalogue)

1967

Photography in the Twentieth Century, traveling exhibition organized by George Eastman
House, Rochester, NY for National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada

Photography International, San Jose State College, San Jose, CA

1966

American Photography: The Sixties, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska,
Lincoln, NE (catalogue)

1964

30 Photographers, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY (catalogue)

1963

Photography 63/An International Exhibition, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
(catalogue)

1962

Photography U.S., de Cordova Museum, Lincoln, MA; Massachusetts-Rhode Island Arts
Festival

1961

Selections from the Coke Collection, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Morehead State College, Kentucky, KY

Photoshow, Arts in Louisville Gallery, Louisville, KY

Seven Contemporary Photographers, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY (catalogue)

Six Photographers, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL (catalogue)

10th Boston Arts Festival, Boston, MA

1960

Fotografo della Nuova Generazione, Pescara, Italy

1959

Sense of Abstraction, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

Art with a Camera, Louisville Arts Club, Louisville, KY

Photography at Mid-Century: Tenth Anniversary Exhibition, George Eastman House,
Rochester, NY; travelled to M.H. De Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA;
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
(catalogue)

1958

Coke Collection, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

De Carava Gallery, New York, NY

1957

Exhibition of Photographs by Members of the Lexington Camera Club, University of
Kentucky, Art Museum, Lexington, KY

Photographer's Choice, Indiana University, IN (catalogue)

1956

1956 Exhibition of Photography by the Members of the Lexington Camera Club, Art
Department, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

1955

Creative Photography, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, KY (catalogue)

Bergen County International Exhibition of Photography, Bergen County, NJ

Light & Shadow International, Rosicrucian Art Gallery, San Jose, CA

Seattle International Exhibition of Photography, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA

1954

Second Southeastern Salon of Photography, 1954 International Exhibition, Orlando, FL

Seventh Hartford International Exhibition of Photography, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford,
CT

SELECTED MONOGRAPHS

2018

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: Stages for Being, University of Kentucky Press

2017

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: American Mystic, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2011

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: Dolls & Masks, Radius Books

2005

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Steidl/ICP

2004

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: A Fourfold Vision, Nazraeli Press

2002

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Phaidon

*Ralph Eugene Meatyard: The Family Album of Lucybelle Crater & Other Figurative
Photographs*, D. A. P.

1996

Ralph Eugene Meatyard in Perspective, Art & Anthologies

1991

Ralph Eugene Meatyard: An American Visionary, Akron Art Museum/Rizzoli

1974

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Aperture

The Family Album of Lucybelle Crater, The Jargon Society

1971

The Unforeseen Wilderness (text by Wendell Berry), University of Kentucky Press; reissued
North Point Press (1991) & Counterpoint (2009)

1970

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Gnomon Press

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France

Cantor Arts Centre, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, AZ

Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas, Austin, TX

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel

J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Louisville Photographic Archives, Louisville, KY

De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

Moody Gallery of Art, Houston, TX

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL

Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada

Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO

National Museum of American History, Washington, DC

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
Princeton Art Museum, Princeton, NJ
SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
Smithsonian Museum of Art, Washington, DC
Speed Museum, Louisville, KY
University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, KY
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY
Yale University, New Haven, CT