

# 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**

**2026**

*New Acquisitions: Photography*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

**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

*20ème 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  
George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY  
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, 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