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Gagosian New York to Exhibit New and Recent Photographs by Roe Ethridge

American Polychronic Opens at 976 Madison Avenue on January 13, 2023



Roe Ethridge, *Story of my life up to now or Red Tray with Mushroom Clock*, 2022, dye sublimation print on Dibond, 48 × 72 inches (121.9 × 182.8 cm), edition of 5 + 2 AP © Roe Ethridge

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Photography is like jujitsu. You're taking whatever is coming at you, and doing something with it.
—Roe Ethridge

NEW YORK, January 3, 2023—Gagosian is pleased to announce *American Polychronic*, an exhibition of new photographs by Roe Ethridge that shares its title with the recently published first comprehensive survey of the artist's work from 1999 to 2022. Another exhibition of new work by the artist, also titled *American Polychronic*, is concurrently on view at Andrew Kreps Gallery from January 13 to February 18, 2023.

Moving within and between photographic genres, from art historically informed portraiture and still-life composition to the styled and coded world of the fashion shoot and the bottomless well of stock and online imagery, Ethridge juxtaposes staged scenes with chanced-upon vignettes, pursuing a formal language that trades in visual friction and the wry transgression of structural rules. His ever-expanding catalogue of hybrid images reflects the textures of contemporary American society, expanding on a formal sensibility peculiar to the “generic Methodist, Southern, middle-class world” in which he grew up.

“*Polychronic* essentially means to do more than one thing at a time,” Ethridge explains of the exhibition’s title. “It’s also a way to describe a cultural notion of time. In the moment, it feels like we are all polychronic by choice or by necessity.” Thus, the term connotes the influence of overlapping contexts on the unfolding of events across a multiverse of images. In Ethridge’s new monograph, images produced for exhibition over the course of twenty-four years are arranged from oldest to most recent, while commercial and editorial photographs appear in the opposite order. The much more focused selection of works on view in the exhibition makes use of the New York gallery space to highlight resonances between the images; in its restrained design, the installation forms an effective counterpoint to the densely packed feel of the book.

Story of my life up to now or Red Tray with Mushroom Clock (2022), a new work not featured in the book, is the exhibition’s defining image. Echoing the collage-like effect of Ethridge’s iconic *Refrigerator* (1999), this still-life photograph depicts an assortment of objects, including the titular kitschy ceramic timepiece. Placed on the left of the shot, it marks the starting point of a loose autobiographical narrative. *FvK Double Trouble* (2022) is more concerned with the camera’s relationship to its own products. The titular initialism, which stands for “Fuji versus Kodak,” alludes to a corporate opposition that embodies the artifice of the medium, restaging the history of photography as a story of technological advancement. This work too recalls *Refrigerator*’s vernacular grid, and shows Ethridge standing coolly back from his subjects rather than presenting them as aspects of an intuitive *modus operandi*.

American Polychronic, which features an essay by Jamieson Webster and an interview with the artist by Antwaun Sargent, was published by Mack Books in 2022.

Roe Ethridge was born in 1969 in Miami and lives and works in New York. Collections include the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Tate, London. Solo exhibitions include *Momentum 4*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2005); *Selected Works*, Charles Riva Collection, Brussels (2012); *Le Consortium*, Dijon, France (2012, traveled to Museum Leuven, Belgium); and *Nearest Neighbor*, FotoFocus Biennial, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2016). Ethridge’s work was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. In 2011 he was shortlisted for the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize.

#RoeEthridge

ROE ETHRIDGE

American Polychronic

Opening reception: Friday, January 13, 6–8pm

January 13–February 25, 2023

976 Madison Avenue, New York

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