Ralph Eugene Meatyard



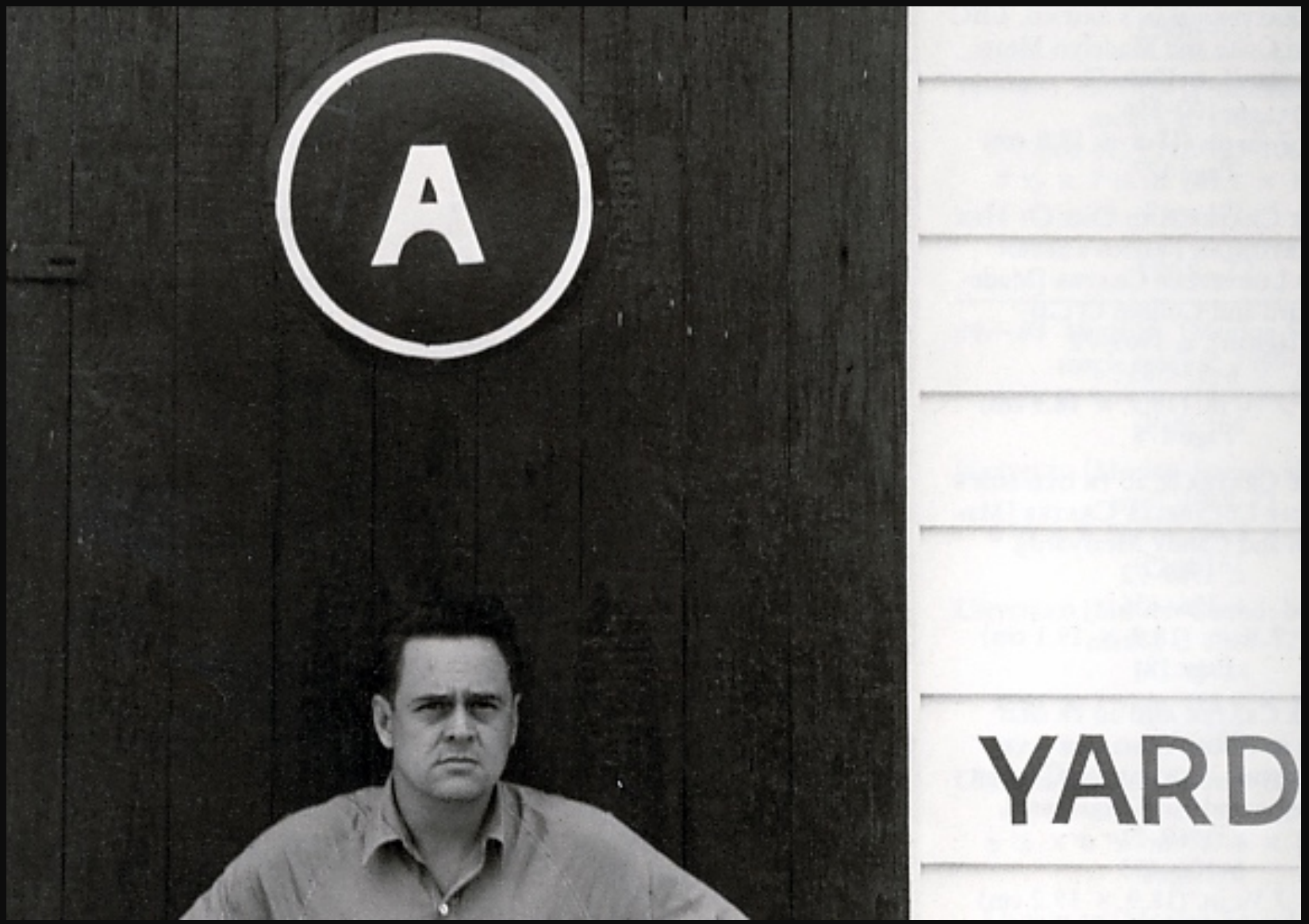
an Aperture Monograph

RALPH EUGENE MEATYARD

Born in *Normal*, Illinois

Meatyard purchased his first camera in 1950 to photograph his son, Michael

During the mid 1950s he attended a series of summer workshops, run by Minor White


A
YARD



Throughout the 50s & 60s he continued to make work, usually shooting in bursts during weekends, then processing all films and printing during the summer holidays, in his makeshift darkroom in his home, until his death in 1972

In the last decade, Meatyard's work has reemerged, and the depth of its genius and its contributions to photography have begun to be understood and appreciated.



In the last two decades, Meatyard's work has re-emerged, and the depth of its genius and its contributions to photography have begun to be understood and appreciated. In a sense, Meatyard suffered a fate common to artists who are very much of, but also very far ahead of, their time.

Everything about his life and his art ran counter to the usual and expected patterns. He was an optician, happily married, a father of three, president of the Parent-Teacher Association, and coach of a boy's baseball team.



Meatyard's work challenged most of the cultural and aesthetic conventions of his time and did not fit in with the dominant notions of the kind of art photography could and should be.

His work sprang from the *beauty of ideas* rather than ideas of the beautiful.



He lived in Lexington, Kentucky, far from the urban centres most associated with serious art. His images had nothing to do with the gritty "street photography" of New York or the romantic large format camera realism of the West Coast.

His best known images were populated with dolls and masks, with family, friends and neighbours, pictured in abandoned buildings or in ordinary suburban backyards.



Wide reading in literature, particularly poetry and philosophy (and Zen Buddhism) stimulated his imagination.

While others roamed the streets searching for America and truth, (Walker Evans, Robert Frank, William Klein, Lee Friedlander, etc., etc.), Meatyard haunted the world of *inner experience*, continually posing unsettling questions about our emotional realities through his pictures.





Meatyard inhabited this interior world quite differently from other photographers exploring inner experience at the time.

Meatyard's "mirror" (as John Szarkowski used the term) was not narcissistic.

It looked back reflectively on the dreams and terrors of metaphysical questions rather than private arguments of faith or doubt

James Rhem, from the preface of Ralph Eugene Meatyard, *(Actes Sud publishers)*


5
4
3
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1





Finally—and of great importance in the development of his aesthetic—Meatyard created a mode of "No-Focus" imagery that was distinctly his own. "No-Focus" images ran entirely counter to any association of camera art with objective realism and opened a new sense of creative freedom in his art.



















polka dots

FRANCESCA WOODMAN NOV 76





ON being AN ANGEL #1









The Family Album of LUCYBELLE CRATER



Lucybelle Crater and her 40 yr old husband Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 1



Lucybelle Crater + 20 yr old son Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 2



Lucybelle Crater + 20 yr old son's legless wife
Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 3



Lucybelle Crater + 30 yr old son's 3 yr old son,
also her 3 yr old grandson — Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 4



Lucybelle Crater + 11 yr old daughter Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 5



Lucybelle Crater and her 15 yr old son Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 6



Lucybelle Crater & her 15 yr old son's friend Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 7



Lucybelle Crater & her charmingly youthful mother-in-law, Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 8



Lucybelle Crater and her regular Mother
Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 9



LBC + her P.O. brother LBC

PLATE 10



LBC & her bearded brother-in-law LBC

PLATE 11



LBC & her bearded brother-in-laws short wife iBC



LBC + her bearded, short in-laws old daughter LBC

PLATE 13



LBC + boarded, short in laws youngest daughter LBC

PLATE 14



Lucybelle Crater + successful peanut farmer friend's accomplished wife - Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 16



LBC + her successful peanut farmer friend from Port Royal, Kgn. LBC

PLATE 15



Lucybelle Crater & successful peanut farmer friend's gorgeous daughter – Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 17



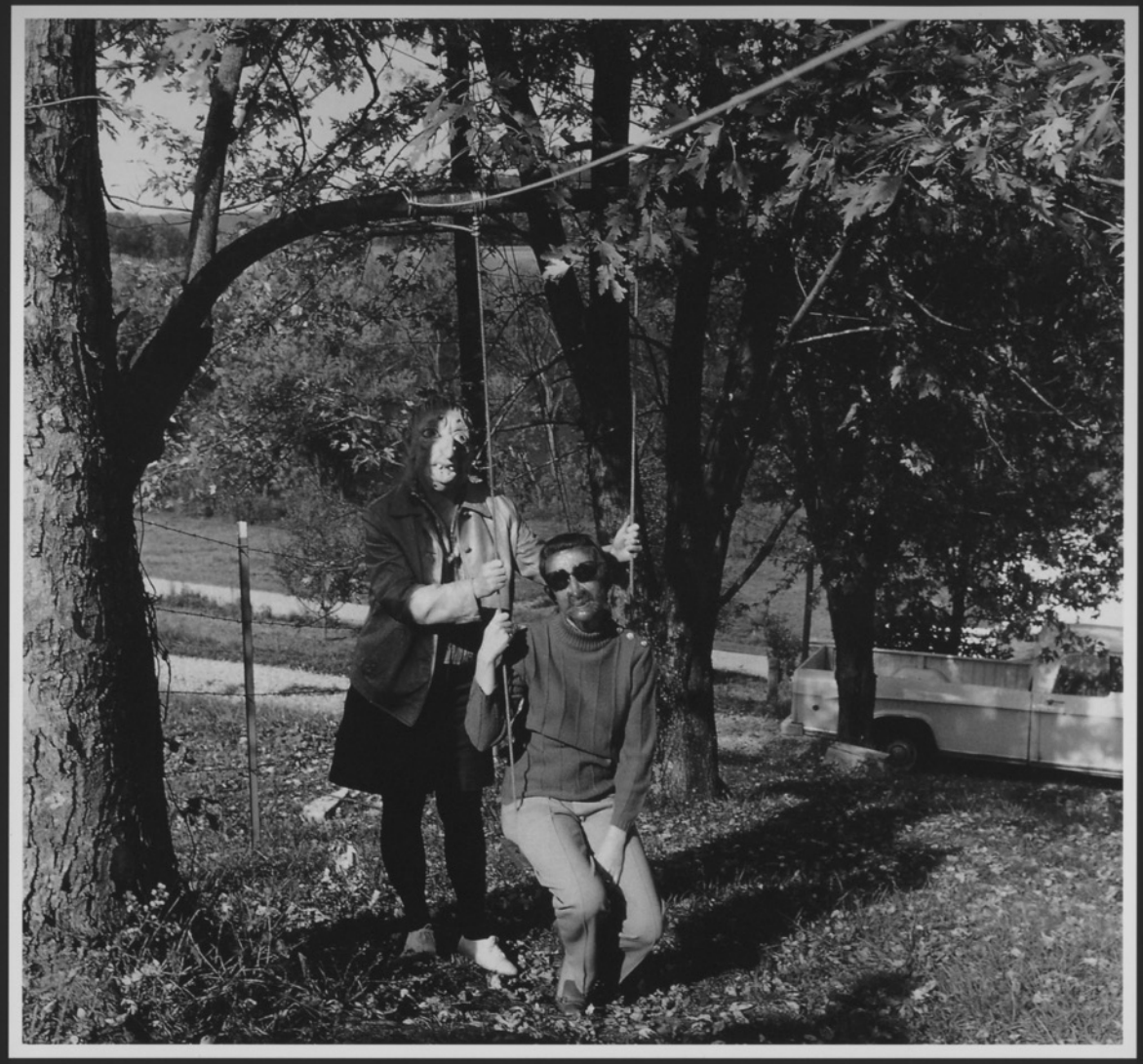
Lucybelle Crater & successful peanut farmer friend's soft-spoken son – Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 18



Lucybelle Crater & successful peanut farmer friend's gorgeous daughter – Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 19



Lucybelle Crater & her successful peanut farmer friend's boyhood chum from New Castle, Ky.'s doggoned wife, Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 20



LBC + gnomist friend, LBC

PLATE 21



Lucybelle Crater + gnomist friend from W 6th St's
friend from Vassar College – Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 22



LBC + bi-polar friend, LBC

PLATE 23



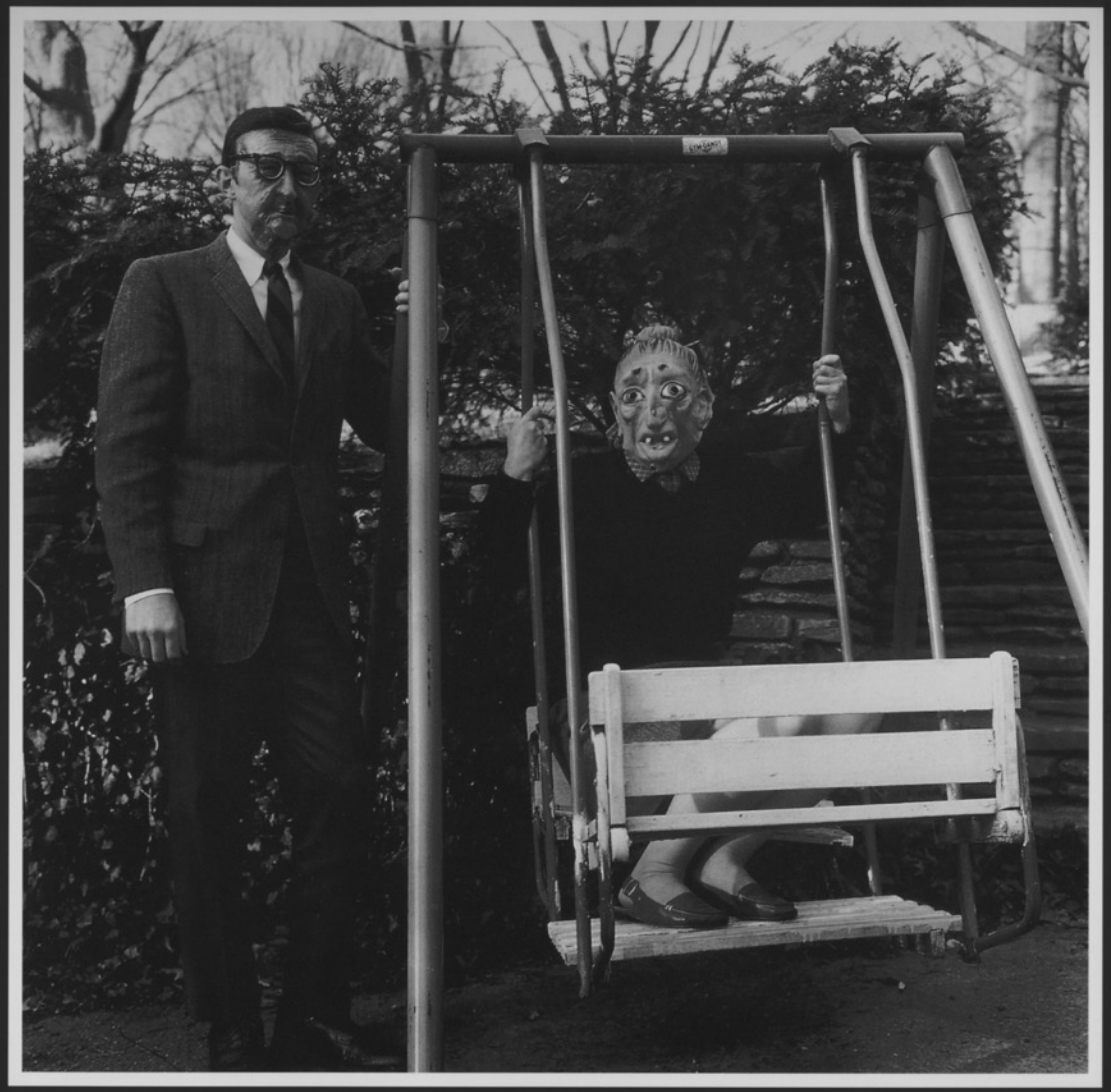
LBC + many faceted friend, LBC

PLATE 24



LBC & her good, good Mertonian friend LBC

PLATE 26



LBC + her good, good Mormonism friend's air-cooled husband LBC

PLATE 25



one of 7 kids of Mertaman friend

PLATE 27



PLATE 28



PLATE 29



PLATE 30



PLATE 31



PLATE 32



PLATE 33



LBC + photo professor LBC

PLATE 34



LBC + secretarial, Brotherly friend, LBC

PLATE 36



LBC + photo professor friend's enlarged wife, LBC



LBC + fatherly friend, LBC

PLATE 38



LBC & barkerly, brotherly friend, LBC

PLATE 37



LBC & 46 yr. old husband's tall photo friend LBC.

PLATE 39



Lucybelle Crater + her 45 yr old husband's photographer friend's furry mother Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 40



Tunybelle Crater + her 45 yr old husband's
photo - Bell friend Tunybelle Crater

PLATE 41



Lucybelle Crater & her 45 yr old husband's
photo - Bell friend Lucybelle Crater's wife
Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 42



Lucybelle Crater + her 45 yr old husband's photo – Bell friend's sonshine, Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 43



Lucybelle Crater and her editorial friend

Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 44



Lucybelle Crater and her editorial friends
Bookie wife, Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 45



Lucybelle Crater and her editorial friend's symbolic son, Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 46



Humbelle Crater + her applied friend
Humbelle Crater

PLATE 47



Lucybelle Crater and her applied friend's wife

Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 48



Lucybelle Crater and her editorial friend's symbolic son, Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 49



Lucybelle Crater and her applied friends #3
son Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 50



Lucybelle Crater & 45 yr. old husband's 20 yr old secretary - Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 51



Lucybelle Crater and her friend with a different Jargon, Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 52



LBC + bibliophilic friend, LBC

PLATE 53



Lucybelle Crater & bibliophilic friend, bibliophilic friend - Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 54



LBC + poetaster friend, LBC

PLATE 55



LBC + Eastern mans friend LBC

PLATE 56



LBC + photo friend from the ~~county~~ rural provinces, LBC

PLATE 57



LBC + photo friend from the rural provinces organic wife, LBC

PLATE 58



to BC a photo friend, praise worthy + Kind, LBC

PLATE 59



LBC + ~~[illegible]~~ firm associate, LBC

PLATE 60



Lucybelle Crater and B. T. F. friend Lucybelle Crater

PLATE 61



LBC + well centered photo friend, LBC

PLATE 62



PLATE 63



Lucybelle Crater and close Friend Lucybelle Crater in the grape Arbor

PLATE 64