Please be advised. Roe Ethridge’s Nearest Neighbor exhibition features one photograph, on the 5th floor, that contains an image of the nude female body. CAC docents have been trained, when touring with children, to stay only on the 4th floor. A request can be made to tour the entire exhibition. Examples of the exact photograph can be provided upon request.

**ARTIST BIO**

Born in 1969, Miami, Florida

Lives in Rockaway Beach, Queens. His studio is in Brooklyn, NY.

Education: Received a B.F.A. in Photography from Atlanta College of Art

Moved to New York in 1997 to start his commercial photography career

**QUOTES**

“I very much wanted to be a conceptual artist, but I was interested in commercial photography too.”

“An important part of the process for me is having two personalities. One is sort of the fugue state shooter who is intuitively doing something, and then there is the editor who is the selector, sequencer, finisher. That is the hard part: having both voices sort of work for you. Sometimes I depend on other people to advise. But one of my favorite parts is that sequencing, putting one thing after another in order to create something new.”

“You go and take these pictures and return to consciousness in the studio and look through what you brought back.”

**EXHIBITION/WORK**

- Roe Ethridge is interested in three different kinds of photography: commercial, fine art and personal/family photos. This exhibition contains examples of all three.
- The photographs are divided into different groups throughout the gallery. Each group focuses on specific themes or stories that Ethridge feels relate to each other.
EXHIBITION/WORK (CONTINUED)

- Roe Ethridge combines conceptual photography with commercial photos. He assembles images from his own photo-shoots and those already in circulation.
- The title of the exhibition, Nearest Neighbor, refers to a photographic term, a form of interpolation or “resampling” of a digital image. As you enlarge a low resolution image, Nearest Neighbor fills in the empty spaces on the grid.
- The term “Nearest Neighbor” also speaks to the personal side of Ethridge’s work. The artist frequently uses his family and friends as subjects in his photographs and uses objects from his personal life as inspiration when shooting.

KEYWORDS AND THEMES

Nearest Neighbor
Commercial Photography vs. Fine Art Photography
Still Life
Spontaneity
Portrait

MATERIALS

Photography
Dye sublimation prints on aluminum
C-Print
Found objects/personal items

DISCUSSION

Before Viewing

- Talk with students about how they use photography in their lives. Ask students when was the last time they took a picture? Did they use a camera or a phone? How many photographs might they take in a day/week?
- Ask students what they think commercial photography is and where it might be found? (billboards, magazines, catalogues, websites, etc.) How is commercial photography different than personal photography? Can personal photography be used commercially as well? Discuss the use of social media for product promotion.
- Introduce the artist, Roe Ethridge, and show examples of the different aspects of his work (commercial, personal and fine art). Have students examine his work and explain which type of photography an image might fall under.
- Ask students what makes a photograph fine art, rather than personal or commercial? Can some of the images fall under multiple categories?
DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

After Viewing

- Ask students what it felt like to see Ethridge’s photographs in the gallery? Did it change their opinions of his work?
- Where would you expect to find the photos in the exhibition? In a magazine? On social media? In a gallery? Did they feel all of the images belonged in a museum?
- Did learning the stories behind each photograph make them enjoy the work more? Or were they disappointed? Did they help you learn something new about the artist?
- Why do you think the artist uses his family and friends in his work?
- Are the objects in his images alike or do they seem misplaced?
- Did Ethridge’s photographs look like they belonged together? Do they look like they were taken from the same photographer? What do they have in common? How are they different?

RESOURCES

Interview with Roe Ethridge about his work and exhibition at the:

LESSONS

Follow the link for lessons that focus on CAC exhibitions:
http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org/learn