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## *Ruddy Roye: When Living Is A Protest*

Exhibition: September 16<sup>th</sup> – October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Opening Reception: September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 6 – 8 PM

Steven Kasher Gallery is pleased to announce the debut solo exhibition of Jamaican photographer Radcliffe “Ruddy” Roye. The exhibition features 20 large scale photographs, many taken in Roye’s neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and from the larger project “When Living is a Protest.” Roye’s images seek to give visibility to the often invisible members of his community, creating images that are in turn harrowing, disturbing, hopeful and joyful. His portraits of the diverse population of Bed-Stuy are infused with dignity and integrity. Roye spends significant time with each person he approaches, listening to their stories. For Roye, telling the stories of his “collaborators” is equally as important as the photographs themselves. Each photograph is accompanied by a text written by Roye, often quoting the people in his pictures. He is a unique voice in street photography, one full of anger, resistance and compassion.



Roye spends his days walking the streets and photographing the people he encounters. He is no stranger to walking, in 2000 Roye walked 121 miles in Jamaica from Montego Bay to Kingston photographing squatters alongside an abandoned train line. He pays close attention to the way people move through the city, acutely aware of those that we usually ignore. He is closer to his subjects than is typical in street photography both emotionally and physically. This intimacy is augmented by his complex compositions of colors, light, lines, signage and shadows.

Roye, who has amassed over 250,000 followers, is a leading figure on Instagram as a photographer showcasing an interest in his community. He began with a series of haunting posts of the devastation that followed Hurricane Sandy. For Roye, social media is a powerful tool to get his message to the masses “The media has a way of deleting the stories of people who society does not want to deal with. This is my humble way of putting these stories back in people’s faces — forming a real and active dialogue about these issues.” Roye adds to each image an incisive retelling of the stories shared with him. These captions will be reproduced in full for the exhibition.

# STEVEN KASHER GALLERY



ruddyroye  
Morton Street Middle...

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ruddyroye December 19, 2015  
Blood Sweat and Tears

Ryan stepped on the court of what was the Morton High School with his hands shoved deeply into his empty pockets and his eyes searching for answers among the broken glass and rubbish that littered the old school yard.

He said that the school had been closed since 2007, leaving parents in the immediate area to worry about finding alternative classrooms in other communities, sometimes risking the safety of their children.

"It's upsetting because that's a piece of Newark history being left behind. My year was the last time there was a school here. A lot of parents were disappointed because they had to look elsewhere for school and being a parent I know they were worrying about their children's



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Radcliffe Roye (b. 1969) is a Jamaican photographer living and working Brooklyn. He has photographed dancehall musicians and fans, sapeurs of the Congo, the Caribbean Carnival J'ouvert and recent political protests in Ferguson, New York and Dallas. After moving to New York in 2001, Roye worked as a freelance photographer for the Associated Press. His photography has appeared in the New York Times, The New Yorker, Vogue, Ebony, Fast Company, BET and ESPN. His work has been included in exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts; Silver Eye Center for Photography; Chastain Arts Center; the Vermont Feick Fine Arts Center; Alice Austen House and Photoville. He has held teaching positions at New York University and the School of Visual Arts and is an adjunct lecturer at Columbia University. Roye is one of the youngest members of the Kamoinge Workshop, the seminal and enduring black photography collective founded in 1963.

*Ruddy Roye: Humanist/Activist* will be on view September 16<sup>th</sup> – October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Steven Kasher Gallery is located at 515 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10001. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM. For more information about the exhibition and all other general inquiries, please contact Cassandra Johnson, 212 966 3978, [cassandra@stevenkasher.com](mailto:cassandra@stevenkasher.com).