

# STUDIO 280

Visual Art | Baking | Jessica Kalmar | Knitting | Sewing



## Side Bar

While revisiting my book collection, I am seeing old connections and making new ones. Ralph Eugene Meatyard was the author of choice in late March, and he sent me on a coincidental journey. | Instrumental soundtracks to foreign movies I've never heard of nor seen have paired well with Meatyard's photographs. | The darkroom is complete and works perfectly! | Another sweater is knitted. Sewing rags and bags from old bed sheets. And now the Inkle loom makes a debut. | Orange cake with chocolate icing is the birthday dessert for a dear friend. | Please enjoy the newsletter!

## "Art demands of us that we shall not stand still."

Ludwig van Beethoven

There are a lot of photographic film negatives in many binders on shelves in my darkroom. Since I started studying analog photography in 1998 I also started understanding the importance of archiving and storage of these organic materials. Quite a lot have survived, but there are some that have damage. The question is, will I ever reprint these negatives? Or better yet, print the negatives that were never printed? Will I revisit my early photographs to resurrect and incorporate them into my current art making? I've been thinking the answer is 'yes' ... but with that come more questions; the foremost being *why*?



## Music

The Gentle Good  
Bruno Sanfilippo  
Layal Watfeh

## Books

*The Unforeseen Wilderness* by  
Wendell Berry  
*Ralph Eugene Meatyard* an  
Aperture Monograph  
*Ralph Eugene Meatyard - The  
Family Album of Lucybelle  
Crater* by James Rhem  
*A Good Man is Hard to Find* by  
Flannery O'Connor

## Knitting / Weaving

A spring sweater for myself.



An Inkle loom is small, as  
looms go. Weaving is done  
manually, without use of foot  
pedals. My mom interested me  
in it and Dad made me a loom.  
The first project is a guitar  
strap for David.



While contemplating this quandary I was reading about Ralph Eugene Meatyard's short life and his photographic work. Just a regular person with a passion to learn about and to see his world. His hunger for reading and exploring made me think of something my mom told me a year ago, that I have an "ongoing quest for knowledge." Similar to Meatyard, I frequent the library to research one thing that stemmed from another, which originated from something else, and so on. Much of it is from revisiting subjects like world geography and various world histories, while others are in efforts to recreate the past with such things as cursive handwriting, needle arts, and homesteading.

## Consider Again

I first interpreted Beethoven's quote as to be constantly moving forward, having learned from the past but never to repeat it. However, as I read more and more about Meatyard, studied his photographs, and lived with this quote in my head during springtime my interpretation changed. I feel it could be as simple as *make art every day*, which is something many of us have read and been told numerous times.

"...He must have seen the difference between a photographer and an artist whose medium is photography..." Guy Davenport remarks on his memories of Meatyard, quoted here from the Aperture Monograph.

Revisiting those old negatives neatly tucked in binders on the darkroom shelves will possibly add, rather than subtract from, my process of being an artist. An ongoing quest for knowledge doesn't necessarily mean to learn only new things. I believe it means to build upon what has already been learned, and to continue an exploration of the familiar from a different perspective.



## Baking

### Ultra-Orange Cake

Whisk together:

1 1/2 cups all purpose flour  
About 1 cup sugar  
1 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp salt

Add and stir together:

1 cup orange juice  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
1 T grated orange zest  
1 T white vinegar  
1 tsp vanilla

Bake 30-35 minutes. Cool.

Then ice with

Quick Chocolate Icing:

Melt in the top of a double boiler: 3 oz 100% cacao unsweetened, 3 T unsalted butter.

Remove from heat and stir in: 1/4 cup hot strong coffee, a little bit of milk, 1 tsp vanilla.

Then stir in about 1 cup of powdered sugar and heat over barely simmering water for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and beat until spreadable.



Recipe from  
*The Joy of Cooking*

## Sometimes the experience is better than the photograph.

David and I enjoyed a two week trip around the United States by train recently. We left from Pittsburgh and had stops in Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Washington D.C. The trip encompassed four hotels, five different Amtrak trains and routes, 24 states, 7510 miles, and four rolls of film.



### Photographs

Four rolls? Yes, only four rolls for the analog photographer. We wanted to pack extremely light, so the trusty Holga was the camera of choice. With very specific editing while photographing, I truly believed four rolls of film were sufficient for a vacation that demanded more time experiencing than photographing.

"You cannot bring too much scholarship to a picture, and what you bring to a picture, what knowledge you have, the more you're going to be able to see." Ralph Eugene Meatyard

### Experience

A portion of the trip I had experienced years ago and it was fun to revisit these areas. Certain things did not change one bit, but yet everything was a new experience. Crossing over all sorts of different landscapes at speeds ranging from 35 to 90 mph, we curiously watched from huge windows tinted just enough so there was no need to squint our eyes. When nightfall came the train



continued on and we were sad to miss the landscape views as we snoozed in our sleeper car bunk beds. Visiting each city and staying in hotels was a nice change from traveling on the train. Although these experiences were fun, they were also generic as the usual way of visiting cities on vacation are. The real experience was traveling on the five different trains through five different routes, much of it in

landscape not easily accessible in any other form of travel. How and why would I experience that through a lens?

"The artist's work is the fatiguing attempt to transform the wonder of life into art." Dorothy Canfield quoted in her book *Raw Material*.

And who is to say what kind of format art takes place? We are all creative whether in words, music, or tangible objects and we all definitely have history, experience, and knowledge.



### Moving forward with different perspectives.

What kinds of subjects do you find yourself revisiting? How does your research affect your present creativity? How do you keep moving forward in your daily life? These questions are a few I thought of when presented with Beethoven's quote the first time. A quote that can easily have the word *art* substituted with *life*.

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### Thank You

A friend once called me *elusive* and I tend to not disagree. It's easier to be so now living in a quiet, rural landscape. This newsletter is an attempt to reach out to you, and if you are so moved to question, comment or constructively criticize, please do so. Thank you for taking the time!

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