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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 world's first solo exhibition of photographer Radcliffe "Ruddy" Roye. The exhibition features 20 large scale photographs, many taken in Roye's neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Roye's images give visibility to the usually invisible members of his community. His portraits are infused with dignity and integrity. Each photograph is accompanied by a text written by the artist, often quoting the subjects. Roye spends significant time with each person he approaches, listening to their stories. For Roye, narrating the stories of his "collaborators" is as important as the images they produce together. Roye's 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 his native Jamaica, from Montego Bay to Kingston, photographing squatters alongside an abandoned train line. He pays close attention to the way people move through the environment, 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, lights, lines, signage and symbols.

Ruddy Roye has amassed over 250,000 Instagram followers, and uploaded over 4,000 posts. He is a leading figure on Instagram among documentary photographer showcasing an interest in their communities. He began his social media work with a series of haunting posts of the devastation that followed Hurricane Sandy. For Roye, social media is a powerful outlet to get his message to a mass audience. "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." Online, Roye adds to each posted image an incisive retelling of the stories he has heard from his subjects. 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 born photographer living in Brooklyn. He has photographed Jamaican dancehall musicians and fans, the Sapeurs of the Congo, the Caribbean Carnival J'Ouvert, and recent political protests in Ferguson, New York and Dallas. Upon 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; the Chastain Arts Center; Alice Austen House and Photoville. He has held teaching positions at New York University and the School of Visual Arts and has lectured 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: When Living Is A Protest* 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).