

# RONALD WILLIAM WAITE

## ON THE GROUND

June 2 – July 5

Opening Reception Friday, June 2, 2017, 6-9pm  
Artist Walk: June 24, 2017 2-4 pm

Gravy Studio & Gallery  
910 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123



Ron is always taking photos. He shoots anything that looks interesting to him in the moment, perhaps an abandoned row home, or a woman wearing a red t-shirt who happens to walking beside a red wall, or road kill as it decomposes. So he spends a lot of time walking around, looking. Up until the winter of this year, he complained about the garbage on the streets, incessantly. Every day I was met with a new tirade against people who toss their fast food trash out their car windows, or who dump their unwanted junk in the vacant lots. I pointed out to him that he was not only making himself miserable, but also me. As he described it to me, "I didn't want to just keep complaining about everything, so I began looking at the trash differently. I began to look at the garbage as objects; each object has its history, was owned, used, loved by someone, and now it just flows through the streets. I'm interested in the objects as objects, with their own history, but also in all the objects as a whole. Putting them together they become something else – they can become garbage or they can become art." *On the Ground*, an ongoing project, came to fruition in January, 2017. Since then, it has grown to somewhere between 3000-4000 photographs, all shot on an iPhone.

—Patty Russo, June 2017

### ABOUT

Waite's photographs explore the hidden narratives behind objects, people and places. The images point to an intrinsic order and symmetry that exists in all things, pulling us into the story of all that goes unnoticed. Waite, whose beginnings were as a painter and installation artist, has always used photography as a sort of sketchbook; however, in recent years the photographs have taken a central role in his work. Waite studied fine art at SVA in New York City and lives and works in the East Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia.

### EXHIBITIONS

*On the Ground*, Gravy Gallery, Philadelphia, PA | 2017  
*The Philadelphia Photo Society: 150 Years of Light* (Group show), The Plastic Club, Phil., PA | 2016  
*Philadelphia Photo Society* (Group show), Philadelphia, PA | 2016  
*The Portrait Reimagined* (Group show), New Hope Arts Center, New Hope, PA | 2016  
*Art for the Cash Poor*, Crane Arts Building, Philadelphia, PA | 2016  
*Trenton Ave Arts Festival*, Fishtown, Philadelphia, PA | 2016  
*Ron Waite: Photographs*, Soup Kitchen Cafe, Philadelphia, PA | 2013  
Various performances, *37th Street Theater*, New York, NY | 1995-1998  
*July Program Faculty Exhibition* (Group show), Usdan Gallery, Bennington, VT | 1997  
*Ba-Ha-Roo (solo performance)*, Martha Graham Auditorium, Bennington, VT | 1997  
*Field Project*, Bennington College, Bennington, VT | 1997  
East Village Cultural Center (Group show), New York, NY | 1996

### CONTACT

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