

MALCOLM EASTON | Artist Statement

I collect well–used domestic objects—things discarded or set aside by their original owners. Though I have no direct personal connection with each piece, there is always something in my own experience that leads me to choose one and pass over another. In my current project I draw on this store of artifacts to make temporary arrangements that exist only for the purpose of being photographed. I'm drawn to the shapes, colors and textures of each piece—along with the associations it may evoke. I place familiar objects in unfamiliar juxtapositions, sometimes defying gravity and sometimes defying logic. The objects within a single image may suggest overlaid memories of childhood and adulthood.

My approach to lighting plays a central role. I use only natural light, and I aim to emphasize the tactile qualities of each element. Working in a windowed studio, I use a handheld mirror to reflect a beam of sunlight onto my arrangement. While the shutter is open I move the mirror, adding a gestural component to the illumination. If something is in motion, the fleeting light catches it at more than one position, creating multiple impressions.

I invite viewers to examine their own store of objects, some still in use, others set aside, still others that reside only in memory.