

Ptolemy

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Eric Ruby***Stone Soup*****July 18–August 9, 2025****Opening Reception: July 18, 2025, 6:00–8:00 PM**

Glendale, NY, 7/18/25: I was walking down Central Avenue with Eric the other day when I revealed to him that, despite having been personally introduced to one another only a few months ago, I had actually known his work for over a decade, starting with my discovery of his Tumblr around 2011 or 2012.

Eric is one of a number of photographers that I've followed over the years whose initial notoriety (at least to me) emerged from the greater Tumblrsphere that thrived from around 2009 to 2015. Instagram had not yet cemented itself as the obligatory social media platform of choice for visual artists, and in general much of the engagement that happened on social media still occurred on a full-size computer screen, which was particularly well-suited for analog photographers posting a small selection of a larger personal archive.

The title of the exhibition (and the accompanying book that served as the impetus for the body of work) is taken from an old folk tale, in which one or more weary travelers (depending on the telling of the story) arrive in a small village and slyly convince the initially skeptical townspeople to add small garnishes and ingredients to a communal soup that they are cooking—despite their having only contributed water for the pot and a stone from the river. As interest builds, however, more and more disparate ingredients are added to the soup, which eventually coalesces into a beautifully rich and interesting stew.

The past two decades have been largely nomadic for Eric, which is reflected in the wide variety of locales and subjects depicted in his images, as well as the textiles onto which they have been collaged, which he has similarly collected over the course of his many journeys. He handily occupies the role of weary (but friendly, and intriguing) traveler, with the images and objects and relationships he collects along the way being the ingredients for his delicious soup, which we all now get to enjoy together.

Pat Reynolds

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Eric Ruby: *Stone Soup*

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Eric Ruby was born in 1987 in Manchester, Connecticut. He got his BFA from RIT in 2009, and his MFA from MASSART in 2014.

He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota and is available for commissions globally.

He travels as much as he can to experience the best water (both drinking and swimming) and spiciest foods. Recommendations are encouraged. He enjoys sewing, cooking, gardening, and just making things in general.