

NEUE WELT

TR Ericsson: Is This You?

October 4th – October 26th, 2025

Neue Welt is pleased to present TR Ericsson: Is This You?

Is This You? is the title of an enlarged, altered, but faithful facsimile of a greeting card I sent to my grandmother over twenty-five years ago. Is This You? is the title of a poem she wrote on the back of the card.

The art I make always begins like this, with an archive of inherited objects and so could reasonably be thought of as being about myself and my family. However, reflecting on this for a long time now I know there are many other things going on alongside the purely personal aspects of the work.

Each artifact that I've saved is only a small trace of something, some moment in time in the life or lives of individuals that I knew and loved. The works of art made from these trace fragments and the context they are presented in add other layers of thought and meaning to the work, so much so that I began to think the question from the poem on the card, Is This You? is in fact a perfect question.

Is this my family in these small relics made from relics? Is the work I do, in part, who I am? And when a stranger sees this, what do they see? What part, or portion of themselves comes forward to answer the most obvious and reasonable question, what is this?

The work of the American artist TR Ericsson is built around deeply personal narratives that investigate the lives of the artist, his middle-class Midwestern family and the changing cultural landscape that impacted each generation. Working from an archive of inherited photographs and documents Ericsson repurposes these artifacts with traditional as well as experimental art materials into a series of intertwining images, objects and texts. Each of these intimate fragments expand into universal declarations on time, memory, love and loss.

Ericsson's work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, US), the Dallas Museum of Art (US), the Cleveland Museum of Art (US), the Everson Museum of Art (US), The Museum of Modern Art (New York, US) and many other prestigious public and private collections. His books and zines can be found in numerous library collections including the Yale University Arts Library (New Haven, US) and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (Washington, DC, US).

His exhibitions have frequently been featured in prominent publications including The New York Times, The Brooklyn Rail, Art Forum, Art in America, Hyperallergic and others. The artist has earned the following awards: The Paris Photo-Aperture Foundation PhotoBook Awards Shortlist: Photography Catalogue of the Year (2015) and Kraszna-Krausz Book Awards 2016 Best Photography Books Shortlist and the 91st International Print Center Award, Philadelphia, PA (2017).

In 2019, Ericsson was commissioned by SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah, Georgia to create a monumental "letter work" that was included in the group exhibition Frederick Douglass: Embers of Freedom, the same year he was also a finalist of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's sixth triennial Outwin Boochever American Portrait Competition with his large scale nicotine work, Bride, a portrait of his mother. In 2024 TBW Books published, NICOTINE, a follow up to his award winning Crackle & Drag monograph published by Yale University Press in 2015.