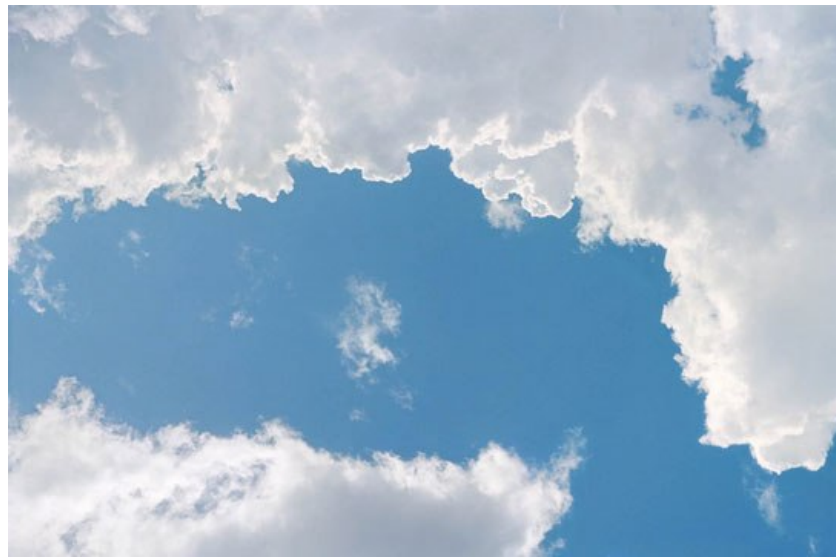


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William Eggleston's Romantic Sky Photos at Gagosian Gallery

Rebecca Bates



At Zenith I, William Eggleston, 1979–2013.

There's a marked painterly quality to the photographs currently on view in William Eggleston's "At Zenith" exhibition at New York's Gagosian Gallery. Clouds drift and swirl against a sky that seems to subtly shift in hue, the white shapes reminiscent of both René Magritte's surrealist clouds and Romantic painter John Constable's dramatic landscapes. The color-saturated images, on display in the gallery's Madison Avenue space, are culled from a series Eggleston began in the late 1970s. While traveling in the South, the photographer lay on the ground and took pictures of the patch of sky directly overhead. The resulting shots are disorienting, mimicking the leisurely act of sky gazing while occasionally creating a sudden sense of falling. Though just a sliver of Eggleston's staggering oeuvre, the prints that make up "At Zenith" are well worth stopping to admire.

Through December 21 at Gagosian Gallery, 980 Madison Ave., New York, NY; gagosian.com