

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



William Eggleston's Cameras



CASE IN POINT | Eggleston shot this portrait of one of his three camera-filled cases using a digital camera. 'I don't particularly like using it,' Eggleston says. 'Technology and I don't really get along too well.'

Though it's hardly shocking for a master photographer of Eggleston's stature to stockpile cameras, his collection, devoted mostly to Canons and Leicas, has grown into something of an obsession ("I have about 300 right now," the photographer says). Known for large-scale, color-saturated prints that quietly document the soul of the American South, the 74-year-old elevates scenes of ordinary life with compassionate scrutiny. In addition to classic chrome Canons and Leicas, he owns rare, custom-painted Leicas in shades of blue, green and dark gray. His camera case—a leather briefcase bought at a Memphis shop and retrofitted in collaboration with a woodworker friend—is similarly customized. Eggleston is currently archiving all his negatives, some 1.5 million of them. "That's a guess," he says. "I haven't really counted."