



THE NEW YORKER

January 14, 2008

ROGER CATHERINEAU

Because the painted, collaged, and otherwise reworked black-and-white photograms by this little-known French photographer (1925-1962) recall both Fox Talbot's early experimentation and Man Ray's Dada-inspired work in the twenties, this show has a slightly retro feel. The pictures, nearly all from the nineteen-fifties, also share a tightly wound kinetic energy with the Abstract Expressionism of that period, and that energy hasn't dissipated. Manic exuberance gives way to a looser, more lyrical spirit here and there, but the tone is dark and brooding, even in the work flecked with accents of bright color. Through Feb. 16. (Gitterman, 170 E. 75th St. 212-734-0868.) - Vince Aletti