

Everyday FENG SHUI

PHOTOGRAPHER BILL KEAGGY FINDS INSPIRATION EVERYWHERE—FROM ROCKS IN THE STREET TO CHAIRS IN ALLEYWAYS

“Collector, maker and breaker of things.”
That’s Bill Keaggy’s official self-description, succinctly encompassing his love of found objects, urban exploration and various ephemera. The native of Youngstown, Ohio, has found much to collect and categorize from St. Louis’ myriad back alleys.

The 37-year-old photographer has chronicled his finds, including everything from rocks shaped like shoes to vintage cameras, on his website, keaggy.com, as well as in two books: *Milk Eggs Vodka: Grocery Lists Lost and Found* and *50 Sad Chairs*. The latter commemorates St. Louis’ abandoned seating, snapped with a compact digital camera on Mr. Keaggy’s bike rides.

From a chair by a pay phone outside the Bevo Mill (“#19: She Never Calls Anymore”) to a frilly couch (“#43: I Can See Your Underwear”), each seat is “really kind of special, in its own sad way,” says Mr. Keaggy. The chairs were named after the fact. “It seemed like you needed another layer of fun in there, for people not as appreciative of junk as I am—an anthropomorphic quality that makes you think about the chair instead of just look at it,” he says.

So what’s the erstwhile collector of chairs seeking now? As pictured here at Centro Modern Furnishings, a new chair: one that can take the abuse dished out by his two preschoolers, Liam and Sorena. —MARGARET BAUER



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN JACKSON