

THE NEW YORKER

Jean-Luc Mylayne

The French photographer stalks his subjects with an obsessiveness that would be alarming if they were human, spending weeks waiting for sparrows, starlings, or robins to grow comfortable in his presence. Mylayne keeps a respectful distance from the birds, but the tone of his work is anything but remote. His new series, photographed in New Mexico and Texas, is wonderfully vivid without veering off into cute. In several images, flocks perch at the edge of a large ceramic pond as if attending a conference. Despite some distractingly arty effects, Mylayne's fond gaze makes these big color pictures feel oddly intimate—cross-species stolen moments, souvenirs of unrequited love. Through Nov. 8. (Gladstone, 515 W. 24th St. 212-206-9300.)