



JENKINS JOHNSON GALLERY

521 West 26th Street • 5th Floor • New York • NY 10001
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william wylie stills

February 11 – April 17, 2010

Opening reception: Thursday,
February 11, 6 – 8 pm

Jenkins Johnson Gallery

521 West 26th Street, Floor 5

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Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am – 6pm



#01-06, Stillwater, 2001, silver gelatin print, 30"x38", ed of 3; 20 x24" inches, ed of 25.

Jenkins Johnson Gallery announces a solo exhibition of acclaimed photographer William Wylie entitled *Stills*. An opening reception for the artist will be held from 6 to 8 pm, Thursday, February 11, 2010. Wylie's book *Stillwater* will also be available for purchase, printed in a first edition of 500 numbered copies, each with an original silver gelatin print on the cover.

"When the air is still, then so is the surface of the river. Then it holds a perfectly silent image of the world that seems not to exist in this world. Where, I have asked myself, is this reflection? It is not on the top of the water, for if there is a little current the river can slide frictionlessly and freely beneath the reflection and the reflection does not move. Nor can you think of it resting on the bottom of the air. The reflection itself seems a plane of no substance, neither water nor air. It rests, I think, upon quietness." - Wendell Berry's afterword to *Stillwater*

William Wylie's stunning silver gelatin photographs featured in *Stills* were made along a stretch of the Cache la Poudre River in Fort Collins, Colorado between 1997 and 2001. Wylie's subject descends from the Rocky Mountain National Forest and flows untamed through the Colorado landscape until the Poudre weaves through Fort Collins, where it becomes a marginalized wilderness. For the five miles the river flows through the city, it is frequently seen through the development – glimpses of the river from the highway or the shopping mall, from parking lots or apartment fire escapes. In many places concrete constrains the river. Yet Wylie's photographs hone in on the tranquility and the raw beauty of the river, almost entirely removing the water from its surroundings.

Wylie's choice to photograph the water near surface level gives his photographs an abstract quality, making something we are supremely familiar with into something we virtually cannot recognize. Wylie also chose to work at varying times of the day, so the light on the water is always varying; some negatives were even exposed by the light of the moon, almost completely abstracting the landscape. Wylie's intimate portraits of the Poudre present the viewer with an opportunity to interpret the image in one's own manner. With knowledge of the landscape and the photograph's context, we can imagine that #01-06 (*Stillwater*) shows the river's smooth flow being interrupted by subtle inconsistencies just below the surface; however, simply looking at the image presents a much more abstract view that could be interpreted in any number of ways. We look forward to the discussions Wylie's photographs will elicit within the gallery.

William Wylie is a professor at the University of Virginia. In 2005, he was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship for his work in the Carrara, Italy marble pits. Additional awards include: The Center for Land Use Interpretation Artist Residency, City of Denver Public Art Commission, UVA Mead Honored Faculty Award, Colorado Book Award, and the Kodak Professional Development Grant. Wylie has had solo exhibitions at Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, VA; Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA; University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville, VA; Foiano Fotografia, Foiano, Italy; Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO; The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA; Colorado Center for the Book, Denver, CO; and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. Moreover, he has been included in group shows at: Amon Carter Museum, Ft. Worth, TX; Museum of Contemporary Art, Ft. Collins, CO; The Art Museum, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ as well as others. He is featured in the collections of: Amon Carter Museum, Ft. Worth, TX; Capitol One Corporation, Richmond, VA; Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; First National Bank Corporation, Ft. Collins, CO; Museum of Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM; Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ; St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO; University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville, VA; and Yale University Art Museum, New Haven CT.



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