

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

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Paul Wainwright Receives Honorable Mention in the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Fellowship Competition

Concord, New Hampshire, July 30, 2012 – New Hampshire photographer Paul Wainwright’s large-format black & white photographs have earned him an Honorable Mention in this year’s New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Fellowship competition.

“An Honorable Mention in the Fellowship competition is far more significant than what I got in grade school when I failed to get into the school play; I am truly honored,” says Wainwright. The competition, which is held every 3 years, spans all of the visual arts, not just photography. From the 47 artists who applied, there were two Fellowships and three Honorable Mentions awarded.

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts is a state agency that enhances the quality of life in New Hampshire by stimulating economic growth through the arts. It was established in 1965 as the official state arts agency designed to insure that the role of the arts in the life of our communities will continue to grow and play an ever more significant part in the welfare and educational experience of our citizens.

“There is a beauty to Wainwright’s work that transcends time,” says Lisa Robinson, Executive Director of The Gallery at Hallmark, which hosted a solo show of Wainwright’s Colonial Meetinghouse photographs last year. “The images capture a feeling and essence of these hushed yet very alive places. The careful design and craftsmanship of the photographs honor the stunning simplicity of early Colonial architecture.”

Commenting on the award, Wainwright says he hopes to have more opportunities to exhibit and sell his work. A traveling exhibition of his Meetinghouse photographs is available to museums and university galleries, and a CD-based tool is available to collectors and commercial galleries interested in acquiring his limited edition work.

Wainwright describes himself as a modern-day Ansel Adams. He works with a wooden large-format camera, sheet film, and develops all his images in his darkroom. Every photograph is carefully and individually created. He prefers to *create a photograph* rather than “shoot” or “take a picture,” and uses traditional processes which force him to slow down and really think about what he wants his images to be.

“My work with these traditional photographic processes is a very Zen-like activity,” says Wainwright. “I think the slow, deliberate pace of creating my photographs complements the timeless nature of the things I photograph.”

Tony Decaneas, founder of Panopticon Gallery in Boston, commented: “Paul Wainwright is one of the best traditional silver gelatin printers in the country.”

Wainwright’s meetinghouse photographs were recently showcased in his award-winning book *A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*, published by Peter E. Randall Publisher of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. *A Space for Faith* has received the New England Book Festival Award for best photography/art book of 2010, the Independent Publishers 2011 Gold Award for best northeast regional non-fiction book of the year, and the American Association of State and Local History 2011 Award of Merit.

In the book, Wainwright’s photographs are accompanied by a Foreword by Brent Glass, Director Emeritus of the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian. Also, an essay by noted colonial-era historian Peter Benes tells about the role these buildings played in this fascinating chapter of American history.

Wainwright, who had long considered himself to be a “photographer with a day job,” discovered his creative passion with his first darkroom at age 12. In 2001, when the job he had held for 24 years at Bell Laboratories was eliminated, he embraced his love of photography and re-created his life.

“I took a leap of faith.” Wainwright says, “I’ll admit that like many of us who suddenly find ourselves without a job, I was scared. But that leap of faith led me to create *A Space for Faith*, a book which wouldn’t exist if I’d still been working in the corporate world.” Wainwright is now a successful landscape and architectural photographer.

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