

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW EXHIBIT HONORS A FALLEN FACULTY MEMBER AT WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

(WORCESTER, Mass., April 23, 2009) — Worcester Art Museum will host an opening reception on Sunday, April 26 for a new exhibit that celebrates the work of one of its beloved faculty members. Over 70 photographic prints by Edwin “Ed” Esleeck are on view until May 14. The exhibit’s opening reception will be held from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Museum’s Higgins Education Wing.

A staple in the Worcester Art Museum faculty for more than 16 years, Esleeck taught beginning, intermediate and advanced photography classes to adults and teenagers from the spring of 1992 until the summer of 2008. Esleeck passed away in the fall of 2008.

Throughout his time at the Museum, he taught hundreds of local, aspiring photographers how to capture the perfect moment on film. According to Director of Education, Honee A. Hess, Esleeck’s desire to mentor and ability to connect with others made him a favorite teacher and co-worker.

“As a faculty member, Ed influenced so many people that it felt right to honor him in this way,” said Associate Director of Education Marcia Lagerwey. “His memory lives on in his photographs, and we are excited to share them with those who knew him well, and also with people who didn’t know him at all.”



In addition to his work at the Museum, Esleeck was an accomplished professional photographer who combined his artistic talents with a passion for travel and produced landscapes that range from scenes of the rustic, natural beauty in Maine to the picturesque plains and valleys in western United States. Esleeck continued to hone his own photographic vision throughout his life. His work was displayed in a variety of local venues, including the Aurora Gallery at ARTSWorcester, Bartlett Gallery at Atlantic Union College, UMass Medical School Gallery, Abrams Gallery at Clark University, Gibbs Gallery at Arlington Center for the Arts, Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport and the Copley Society of Boston. During his professional career, Esleeck's work was also displayed in juried exhibitions, including the Fitchburg Art Museum, Maine Art Gallery and Massachusetts Audubon Society.

“He was a true professional, a wonderful photographer and we miss him,” said Lagerwey. “This exhibit is a tribute to Ed, and it allows him to continue to have a physical presence in the museum, and it also allows us to keep a piece of him around for awhile longer.”

Exhibition is on view Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00pm, Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. through May 14.

Located on Salisbury St., in Worcester, Massachusetts, the Worcester Art Museum opened in 1898 and is one of America's most respected art museums. The Museum is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. For more information, visit our new website at www.worcesterart.org.

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