

Wild Edges: Photographic Ink Prints by Gregory Conniff

Wild Edges: Photographic Ink Prints by Gregory Conniff is about beauty and its necessary place in daily human life. Most of the pictures were made specifically for the exhibition. All are printed in a tonally rich four-black ink process that evokes the sensual physical presence of nineteenth century photographic materials. In Conniff's work, there is a visible connection to the history of landscape art, reaching back as far as French Baroque painter Claude Lorrain (ca.1602-1682) and seventeenth century Dutch landscape drawing. Conniff is also a leading practitioner of a new pastoralism that is casting a contemporary eye on the current state of America's open land. Conniff's pictures, postmodern in the best sense, address the timeless human need to appreciate beauty in the world that shapes our lives.

Conniff's pictures also reflect his belief that we come to know beauty in the natural world through the multiple, language-free intelligences of the senses. His photographs encourage the viewer to take positive notice of the structure and immediate details of the physical world we all share, but which we may overlook while buffeted by modern life's speeding culture of mediated reality and transient fame. "The landscapes I am concerned with photographically are the rural middle landscape and the landscapes of home and yard—where most of us live and dream and where we deserve a setting that strengthens us for the challenge of living well. I am interested in spaces where the human spirit can catch its breath," Conniff explains.

Generous funding for *Wild Edges: Photographic Ink Prints by Gregory Conniff* has been provided by Diane Seder and Bruce Rosen, the Brittingham Fund, Hilldale Fund, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from Endres Mfg. Company Foundation and Overture Foundation, Madison Arts Commission, and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

A catalogue, *Wild Edges: Photographic Ink Prints by Gregory Conniff*, featuring an essay by Conniff on his ideas about the necessity of beauty in everyday life and his photographs, is available in the Museum Shop.