

D A V I S
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jem Southam: Upton Pyne
Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College
March 19 – June 8, 2008

Wellesley, MA – The Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College will feature *Jem Southam: Upton Pyne* this spring. One of the most significant photographers working in Britain today, Jem Southam creates photographic narratives of landscapes transformed by time and humans. *Upton Pyne* chronicles the evolution of a small pond, the result of industrial waste on the site of a former manganese mine near his home in Cornwall, England. The artist describes the series as a “collection of histories” gathered during regular walks to the pond between 1996 and 2001. By recording this unassuming place through shifting seasons and various people’s attempts to improve it, Southam’s photographs ask us to reexamine notions of meaning and beauty in the landscape. The Opening Reception at the Davis Museum is Wednesday, March 19 from 6-8pm. *Admission and parking are free.*

The exhibition features twenty-one large-format photographs structured in the three parts. The first follows the efforts of one neighbor, who strove to transform the pond into his own notion of Eden, replete with fish, flowers, and benches for contemplation. After three years he suddenly stopped and the pond once again fell into disuse. Part two sees another resident take over, this time with the goal of making it into a suburban-style leisure area, including picnic tables and swing-sets. In the final segment, Southam stands at the pond’s edges and turns his camera out, connecting the pond and viewers of the photographs with the surrounding landscape.

Born in Bristol, England, in 1950, Southam is a reader in Photography at the University of Plymouth. In 2005, he published *Landscape Stories*, the first comprehensive collection of this work. Other publications include *The Red River* (1989), *The Raft of Carrots* (1992), *The Shape of Time* (2000) and *The Painter’s Pool* (2006). *Jem Southam: Upton Pyne* also recently appeared at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, and the Yale Center for British Art.

Jem Southam: Upton Pyne is funded by the Linda Wyatt Gruber (Class of 1966) Photography Fund, Kathryn Wasserman Davis '28 Fund for World Cultures and Leadership, Elizabeth Bein Keto '48 Endowed Memorial Art Fund, the Wellesley College

Art Department, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Wellesley College co-sponsors include the Botanic Gardens and Environmental Studies Program.

RELATED PROGRAMS

A series of talks by landscape photographers will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition. All of the artists – Jem Southam, Esteban Pastorino, and Jane Marsching – create work concerned with the relationship between humans and the natural world.

March 18, Tuesday

Lecture by Jem Southam

11:10 am - 12:20pm

Collins Cinema

Presented as part of Art Department Professor Patricia Berman's History of Photography class

Open to the public

The exhibition will be installed and open by 10:00 am on Tuesday, March 18 for those attending the lecture.

March 19, Wednesday

Opening Reception

6-8pm

Conversation with Jem Southam and Dabney Hailey

7:30pm

Davis Museum: Wolfe Gallery

Open to the public

April 2, Wednesday

Conversation with Artist Esteban Pastorino and Professor James Oles

5:00 pm

Location to be determined

Open to the public

Esteban Pastorino (Buenos Aires, 1972) is one of the leading contemporary photographers in Argentina. His work, which involves experimental uses of the medium--he makes his own cameras and uses innovative perspectives and formats--emerged in part from his training in Mechanical Engineering at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. He began working in photography in the mid-1990s. He has exhibited widely, including in *To Fly: Contemporary Aerial Photography*, held at the Boston University Art Gallery in the fall of 2007. His work was also featured in the recent *Vitamin Ph: New Perspectives in Photography* (Phaidon, 2006).

April 9, Wednesday

Lecture by Artist Jane Marsching

5:00 pm

Jewett Arts Center 450

Boston-based digital media artist and photographer Jane Marsching will present video, sound, and images, inviting the audience on a journey through her recent work. Featured will be her ongoing project, *Arctic Listening Post*, which explores our past, present and future human impact on the Arctic environment through interdisciplinary and collaborative practices. Her upcoming work brings together scientists, architects, and sci-fi illustrators to imagine what it will be like to live at the North Pole in 100 years. She is currently Assistant Professor at Massachusetts College of Art in Studio Foundation.

DAVIS MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER HOURS AND INFORMATION

The Davis Museum is open Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–5pm, Wednesday until 8pm, and Sunday 12noon–4pm. Closed Mondays and holidays. Admission is free. The Center is located on the Wellesley College campus, 106 Central Street in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Parking is free and available in the lot behind the museum. Additional parking is available in the Davis Parking Garage.

For docent tour information, please call 781-283-3382. The museum, Collins Café and Collins Cinema are wheelchair accessible and wheelchairs are available for use in the Museum without charge. Special needs may be accommodated by contacting the Director of Disability Services, Jim Wice at 781-283-2434 or at jwice@wellesley.edu.

FREE ADMISSION. FREE PARKING. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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MEDIA NOTE: For more information, digital images, or to set up an interview with Dabney Hailey, Linda Wyatt Gruber '66 curator of Painting, Sculpture, and Photography, contact: Barbara Levitov at 781-283-2034 or blevitov@wellesley.edu.