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Photography that inspires

Written by Jacleen Charbonneau · 11/06/2014 · 5:00 am

On Nov. 16, the Gallery at Briarwood, a space showcasing the work of both residents of its Continuing Care Retirement Center and local artists, will celebrate Briarwood's 30-year anniversary with an uplifting exhibit of photographs by Ron Rosenstock, "The Light Within." The collection of powerful images offers both the public and seniors living in the Briarwood community a glimpse of the world in an inspiring light.

"Having Ron at Briarwood...confirms Briarwood's commitment to the community and to our residents who place much value on living full, active lives," said Anita Thomas, Public Relations and Community Outreach director for Briarwood. "My hope is that the audience is moved in an intimate and personal way. One can't help but be touched by the beauty of nature and the world reflected in Ron's work."

Rosenstock was born for the camera. At 6 years old, he was already using a Brownie Hawkeye camera, snapping photographs of his family. His interest only grew stronger throughout the years, creating his first darkroom to develop photographs in his mother's laundry room before he was even a teenager. Then, in



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the year 1959, he discovered a take on photography that grew into a passion. "I went with a few high school friends to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. There happened to be a photography exhibit by Edward Weston," said Rosenstock. "Seeing his work changed my life. I became consumed with creating images that connected to my inner feeling about what I was seeing and feeling."

Rosenstock's photography career progressed when he attended a workshop held by Minor White, eight years after viewing Weston's photography exhibit. Here, Rosenstock connected with those of similar interests and made connections, leading him to the road of teaching. He soon became a photography instructor at Clark University, which lasted three decades. Today, the well-known photographer travels the world, currently a photo tour leader in eight locations: Ireland, Peru, Bhutan, Greece, Iceland, Morocco, Italy and New Zealand. His work continues to capture the hearts of many as it reflects the earth's "moments of eternity."

"What I call 'the eternal moment' is more closely linked to our special communion with nature. Where our soul and nature are one," explained Rosenstock. "I like to think if I were photographing throughout time, my images would evoke the same response. I wish to live in eternity, which is now. Now is forever throughout the vertical time line...the sun, the stars, the oceans, deserts and landscape have been here since the earth was first formed. The earth never stopped forming...We too, are evolving along with our planet."

Although Rosenstock discovers eternal moments in every place he travels, he finds them especially noticeable in Iceland and Greenland. "The Light Within" showcases such moments, beginning with a viewing of Rosenstock's DVD that includes 100 photographs from around the world, as well as recited Irish poetry and soothing music.

"It is meant to be a visual meditation," said Rosenstock, who enjoys presenting at New England assisted living communities. "The combination of my photographs, the accompanying poetry and music will quiet the mind to allow for an experience of who you are. From seeing and listening, we can grow stronger."



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Following the screening, the exhibit of images hung on the walls will open for viewing, which will include photographs offering the same meditative message. Approximately 50 black and white images from around the world, measuring 11x14 inches, 16x20 inches and 24x29 inches, the photographs offer the same meditative message.

"I enjoy color photography, but I find it tends to be more representational when my work is more interpretive. Color pretends to be realistic. I have far more leeway to interpret with black and white," explained Rosenstock.

Additionally, the photographer will be selling books, including one with an Icelandic focus titled, "Inspirations, Photographs of Iceland." This collection of photographs keeps the same theme as "The Light Within," as well as all other works of Rosenstock.

"Iceland is different from other parts of the world in that it is like experiencing the formation of our planet from the very beginning," said Rosenstock, who recently exhibited work in Reykjavik at the National Museum of Iceland. "I don't know of any other country where there are so many waterfalls, rainbows, ice lagoons, glaciers, lava fields and ever-changing land and seascapes."

Rosenstock's "The Light Within" will be held at The Gallery at Briarwood, located at 65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester on Sunday, Nov. 16, from 2-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and music by harpist Susan Miron will play throughout the afternoon, starting at 1:30 p.m. for early attendance. Admission is free and open to the public.

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