

## The Mayor's Gallery presents "Weir Was Here – Secret Rooms, Doors and Windows"

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"Weir Was Here – Secret Rooms, Doors and Windows"

a photographic essay by Xiomaro

March 1 – April 30, 2013

888 Washington Blvd, 10<sup>th</sup> floor Stamford, CT

Weekdays from 9 – 5 pm

'Weir Was Here – Secret Rooms, Doors and Windows' is the first artistic photographic collection documenting the beauty and textures of the key historical structures at Weir Farm National Historic Site, located in Wilton and Ridgefield, which have never been seen by the general public. The homestead was continuously occupied by artists starting with Julian Alden Weir, one of the founders of American Impressionism, and including Mahonri Young, a sculptor and painter of the Ashcan School. The photographs reinforce the personal connection of Weir to the spaces, which are unadorned but, at once, stark, rustic and ethereal. In 2013, the buildings will open to the public with the interiors fully furnished and significantly changed from how they appear now. So the photographs offer a rare peek of what lies within these vacant rooms. Xiomáro (pronounced SEE-oh-MAH-ro), a New York artist, was tasked by Weir Farm to create this body of work to share with the public. He was an Artist-in-Residence at Weir Farm and continues his relationship with the park as a Visiting Artist. For a free 6" x 4" souvenir print, go to [www.xiomaro.com](http://www.xiomaro.com). For information about visiting Weir Farm, go to [www.nps.gov/wefa](http://www.nps.gov/wefa).

Xio uses photography to draw attention to historical sites where American figures lived and worked to pursue their vision. Other projects with the National Parks Service include President Theodore Roosevelt's Sagamore Hill mansion, which will be exhibited at Harvard College next year, and William Floyd's mansion at Fire Island National Seashore, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. "My goal is that, after experiencing these collections, urban viewers will feel compelled to visit the parks where they, too, can examine these leaders and explore the ideas that shaped our culture," explains the artist. "As a product of New York City, I can attest to the inspiring and introspective effect these iconic, local places can have on one's spirit."

Xio's work began in New York City where he grew up surrounded by the arts and the artful. His uncle was an oil painter and his father made Chippendale furniture. Xio's philosophy degree, backed with heavy concentrations in art and music, led to New York University School of Law after which he began representing artists in the burgeoning Hip Hop and Dance music scenes. He maintained his own creativity through coffeehouse concerts and art exhibits around the Northeast, which landed him a Top 40 spot in American Idol Underground, the web version of the TV show.

But it was after cancer surgery that Xio decided to start anew by pursuing fine art photography in the nation's parks. During recovery he found a solitary peace in wandering the open spaces with a camera. The change was commemorated by adopting a pseudonym – Xiomáro – which is a nod to his family's roots in Spain and the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. And Xiomáro literally means "ready for battle."

**Friday, 01 March, 2013**

09:00 AM - 05:00 PM

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