

Weir Was Here: Physically Empty, Artistically Full



The photographer Xiomáro has documented studio rooms at Weir Farm, empty before renovations, as they have never been seen by the public. The photographs are on display now at Burlingham House Visitor Center on Nod Hill Road.

The first artistic collection of photographs documenting the interiors of the major historic buildings at Weir Farm National Historic Site make up the exhibition *Weir Was Here – Secret Rooms, Doors and Windows*, on display now through May 31. The show is at Burlingham House Visitor Center, 735 Nod Hill Road. Gallery hours January through March are Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 4, and April through May Thursday to Sunday from 10 to 4.

The photographs were created by Xiomáro (see-oh-MAH-ro), a Weir Farm visiting artist. The interiors are empty for the first time in at least 140 years and have never been seen by the general public.

The National Park Service commissioned the photographs as part of a major rehabilitation and restoration of the buildings. By 2013 they will be fully furnished and significantly changed.

The exhibit presents 17 photographs from close to 150 in the collection featuring the rooms, doors, windows and other distinguishing characteristics of the interiors – unadorned but, at once, stark, rustic and ethereal.

"For us, the photographs reinforce the personal connection of Weir to the spaces and focuses on the artistic elegance of color and light," Linda Cook, superintendent at Weir Farm said in a press release.

"We worked with Xiomáro, who had been an artist in residence here at the park. His work is so compelling to us that we hired him to create a more in-depth body of work to share with the public. He continues his relationship with the park as a visiting artist."

Julian Alden Weir, a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism, acquired the farm in 1882. His daughter, painter Dorothy Weir Young, and her husband, sculptor Mahonri Young, lived on the homestead after Weir's death. Young was associated with the Ashcan School, an art movement that, ironically, rebelled against American Impressionism. Today, the 60-acre farm is the only National Park Service site in the country dedicated to an American painter.

Xiomáro will present free gallery talks about his photographs on the following Sundays: Feb. 5, March 4, April 1 and May 6. All talks are from 2 to 3 at the Burlingham House Visitor Center. Registration is required: 203-834-1896, ext. 12.

Free souvenir prints are available at xiomaro.com.