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Weir Farm photos tour New York City

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This photo of the pond at Weir Farm is part of Xiomáro's photography exhibit touring in New York City. Xiomáro was the Weir Farm artist-in-residence this past March

Xiomáro (pronounced see-oh-MAH-ro), a former Weir Farm National Historic Site artist-in-residence, has launched a touring exhibit of his new photo art series, FractalScapes, which features three images that were created at Weir Farm, including its well-known pond.

FractalScapes debuted in July at The Cup for a four-week run. The Long Island establishment then extended the exhibit for another two weeks. In September, the tour moves to Brooklyn's Life Café, another alternative art space and coffeehouse. Other locations are being scheduled.

The cutting edge mathematical theory of fractal geometry has inspired Xiomáro to create these images, which highlight the elegance of abstract, repeating shapes and patterns appearing in landscapes and cityscapes. This aesthetic was also brought to the photos he took at Weir Farm in Wilton.

As a promotion for his art photography, visitors to Xiomáro's Web site (xiomaro.com) or to his Facebook (facebook.com/xiomaro) and Twitter (twitter.com/xiomarophoto) pages will receive a free four-inch-by-six-inch souvenir print.

FractalScapes, a 12-photo series, highlights the natural and man-made patterns appearing in water, sand, trees and architecture. Tight frames exclude the sky and other reference points, which force the eye toward details that reveal the hidden beauty of repetitive shapes, colors and motion.

Composing the images in this fragmented manner resulted in using Photoshop only to adjust for contrast or brightness. In some images, selective blurring was created in the lens itself. In others, the image was rotated to further abstract the subject.

After overcoming cancer, Xiomáro was drawn to the solitary peace of photography. A desire to make sense of the world also drew him to the mathematical theories of fractal geometry. Unlike circles, squares and triangles, fractal geometry offers unusual shapes

like the "Mandelbrot Set." This unique shape is a model used to explain the irregular contours repeated at every scale — from clouds, coastlines and mountains down to trees, plants and soil.

"Real life is not smooth. It's rough. Mountains are not really shaped like triangles, lakes are not ovals, tree trunks are not rectangular columns and blades of grass are not straight lines. Their shapes are uneven," explains Xiomáro. "But these irregular shapes have a pattern to them that gets repeated." He offers this simple experiment anyone can try online. "Go on Google Earth and look at the contour of a coastline. Then pick a spot and zoom into it. You will see a pattern: the more you magnify the section, the more similar-looking and irregular contours you will see within it, which continue indefinitely."

After learning about fractals, the new geometry began to inform Xiomáro's way of looking at natural and urban scenery. A theme emerged in the way he composed his photos — regardless of the location or subject — that centered on abstract patterns formed by repetitive shapes that were irregular, but similar.

"By photographing fractal-like shapes in the natural world, I offer a different experience or viewpoint of landscapes and cityscapes that have become all too familiar."

Xiomáro was the Weir Farm artist-in-residence this past March. In addition to photography, he is also a musician and practices entertainment law.

Xiomáro's FractalScapes is on exhibit Sept. 9-30 at Life Café, 983 Flushing Avenue at Central Avenue in Brooklyn (lifecafe.com/718-386-1133).

Information: xiomaro.com.

http://www.acorn-online.com/joomla15/wiltonbulletin/community/102768-weir-farm-photos-tour-new-york-city.html