

Weir Farm exhibit comes to Georgetown

A collection of photos of Weir Farm comes home to Connecticut this month after half a year on exhibit in Washington, D.C.

Weir Was Here — Secret Rooms, Doors and Windows will open with a free, public reception Saturday, Oct. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Gilbert & Bennett Community Cultural Center on New Street in Wilton. The exhibition will be on display through Nov. 10.

This is the first artistic collection of photographs documenting the interiors of the major historic buildings at Weir Farm National Historic Site. The photographer is Xiomáro (SEE-oh-MAH-ro), who was an artist-in-residence at Weir Farm in 2011.

A selection of photos from the collection were first exhibited at Weir Farm in January. In March, Senator Joseph Lieberman had another selection of Weir photographs installed at his Washington, D.C., office where they will remain until the end of this year, following his retirement.

Additional photographs from the collection are on display at Congressman Jim Himes' Bridgeport and Stamford offices. According to Xiomáro, other exhibits are being planned with Senator Richard Blumenthal, Gov. Dannel Malloy and Stamford Mayor Michael Pavia.

The photographic record was commissioned by the National Park Service as part



Xiomáro

A collection of photos of the Weir Farm studios and house will be on display at the Gilbert & Bennett Community Cultural Center. There will be a free reception Sunday, Oct. 13, from 7 to 9.

of a major rehabilitation and restoration of Julian Alden Weir's house and painting studio and Mahonri Young's sculpture studio. By 2013, the interiors will be fully furnished and significantly changed from

how they appear now.

Weir was a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. He acquired the property in 1882 and his daughter, painter Dorothy

Weir Young, and her husband, sculptor Mahonri Young, continued working and living on the farm after Weir's death.

The exhibition at the cultural center will present the greatest number of photographs in the collection including 12 that have been printed for the first time. These 17-inch-by-25-inch photographs are also larger than any previously exhibited and will be presented unframed.

"Viewers can now see the photographs as I see them at my studio, without any of the barriers introduced by framing," Xiomáro said. "The glass, its inherently green tinge, its reflective glare and the matting are layers that separate one from the surface finish of the print and interfere with its original colors and tones. I want the viewers' experience of the photographs to be as intimate as the subject matter of the images."

The viewing schedule is Monday to Friday from 9 to 4:30; Saturday and Sunday from 11 to 3. Admission is free.

Registration for the reception is not required, but is requested. Visit xiomaro.com. For more information about Weir Farm National Historic Site, visit nps.gov/wefa.

Sales of prints will benefit the Gilbert & Bennett Community Cultural Center, and will help fund continuing exhibits of the Weir Was Here collection.