



New Britain museum hosts collection of important photographs

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The New Britain Museum of American Art will show two exhibitions this winter that were inspired by a donation of important contemporary photographs by Baltimore-based collectors Nancy and Tom O'Neil: "Edward Burtynsky: Earth Observed" (through April 16) and "In Focus: Photographs from the O'Neil Collection" (through June 4, 2023).

Donated to the museum in 2019 and 2021, the O'Neils' gift encompasses 32 works by leading photographers and is one of the most significant donations of artwork received by the NBMAA in its history. Among the photographers represented are Edward Burtynsky, David Maisel, Ben Marcin, Abelardo Morell, Matthew Pillsbury, Rocky Schenck, Brian Schutmaat, Fazal Sheikh, George Tice and Brian Ulrich.

Select works from the gift have been showcased in permanent collection installations at the museum; however, this year, the museum will present two major concurrent exhibitions inspired by and drawn from their extensive donation.

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CONTRIBUTED

'Manufacturing #17' by Edward Burtynsky.

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On Dec. 8, the museum launched a second show, "In Focus: Photographs from the O'Neil Collection," at the Delamar Hotel in West Hartford. This installation represents the newest exhibition in a series of curated shows that the museum has presented for the hotel since 2016. Featured throughout the first and second floors are significant works by Morell and Richard Kagan, whose innovative depictions of landscapes and interiors showcase diverse photographic techniques and transport one's imagination. Works by Tice (b. 1938) highlight the photographer's mastery and wide range of quintessentially American subject matter. Finally, captivating portraits and scenes by Sheikh, Chan Chao, Marcin, Johnathan Anderson and Edwin Low offer poignant views of humanity from around the world.

A specialist in 20th- and 21st -century American photography, NBMAA director and CEO Brett Abbott described the O'Neil donation as "among the largest and most important gifts of contemporary photography ever made to the NBMAA, featuring works by leading practitioners of our times." In a press release, he said, "This gift reflects the O'Neil family's connoisseurship and commitment to sharing the best of contemporary photography with a broad public through generous museum patronage. Their donation of over 30 works — each exquisitely framed — enhances the NBMAA's

collection immeasurably, allowing our museum to better represent the photographic medium throughout our galleries, and to tell the story of American creativity for the benefit and enjoyment of our visitors, now and for years to come."

The museum is located at 56 Lexington St., New Britain. For information, visit nbmaa.org or call (860) 229-0257.