



ADRIENNE STEIN & TIMOTHY POWERS WILSON

Whispering place

Famed painter Andrew Wyeth was drawn to the places and people that were part of his daily life in two distinct towns where he lived. His hometown of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, and his summer home of Cushing, Maine, are memorialized on his canvases, with some of his most recognized works being from the locales.

In celebration of what would have been the artist's 100th year, Sloane Merrill Gallery in Boston will host the exhibition *Whispering Place*. For the show, Pennsylvania artist **Adrienne Stein** and Maine artist **Timothy Powers Wilson** will pay homage to Wyeth with their own interpretations of their beloved lands, as well as incorporating some figures.

In Chadds Ford, Wyeth began painting his neighbors, Anna and Karl Kuerner, and their farm. From them he met German-born Helga Testorf, whom he painted nearly 247 studies of between 1971 and 1985.

Stein found her inspiration from these works by honing in on places nearby her home as well as departing from her normal vibrant colors and subjects to quieter and more contemplative pieces in the vein of Wyeth.

"I grew up in Pennsylvania where Andrew Wyeth was like a patron saint," says Stein. "He immortalized the textured landscape and people of rural Pennsylvania in a way that no artist has done before or since. There is a specificity of place that he captures. By painting often overlooked things, he imbued them with an inner life and significance. The mundane became iconic. In the paintings for this show, I've tried to give close attention to quiet, subtle moments around my home and studio in Pennsylvania."

Stein will have nine works in the show. Five will be landscapes from locations in eastern Pennsylvania, such as *Strickler's Field*, which is farmland near her home that she passes nearly every day but found even more enchanting with the snow. "Every time I see the snow-covered fields around me, I am reminded of Andrew Wyeth's snow paintings," she says.

Stein also will display four paintings of figures in interior or landscape environments, including two nudes that were inspired by the Helga paintings.

During the summers, Wyeth's time in Cushing was often spent at the Olson farm. From 1937 to the late 1960s he completed nearly 300 works of the property and its

inhabitants. *Christina's World*, considered by many as his most famous work, depicts his neighbor Christina Olson on the field looking up toward her home.

Wilson has been going to Cushing himself and has found the lands to be the muse in some of his paintings. In preparing for the show, Wilson had planned to put his own slant on some Wyeth's works, but found it more advantageous to embrace his own personal landscapes the way Wyeth did. "I thought it would be interesting to see how a contemporary artist responds to the same place," he says.

Among his works is *Open Field*, which came about while staying in a cabin one winter in the town. "It was just gorgeous and I realized a few days after being there that it was a beautiful location because all of the walls in the cabin were completely floor to ceiling length windows," he says. "I watched these fields pile up with the snow. That was the painting I did before the snow came on. It was a quick little study that I'm going to be having a bit more developed paintings based off of [in the exhibition.]"

Whispering Place will be on view October 10 through November 3, with an opening reception on October 14. ●





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1
Adrienne Stein, *Frozen
Leaves*, oil on birch
panel, 8 x 10"

2
Timothy Powers Wilson,
Open Field, oil on paper,
8½ x 13"

3
Adrienne Stein,
Strickler's Field, oil on
copper, 9 x 12"

4
Adrienne Stein paints in
her studio.

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