

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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News

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UPCOMING ALBANY INSTITUTE EXHIBIT TAKES A WIDE LOOK AT THE HUDSON VALLEY

ALBANY, NY— For 25 years, New York photographer Harry Wilks has been looking at his world from different viewpoints—from the roofs of New York’s skyscrapers, the perspective of a concrete barrier, and the vantage point of a guardrail. On **Saturday, March 14, 2009**, the Albany Institute of History & Art welcomes *Hudson Valley: Spanning the Banks*, an exhibition of Wilks’s captivating photographs.

Using a Widelux swing-lens camera, Wilks captures panoramic slices of the Hudson River Valley, from New York City to the Hudson Highlands, where mundane structures along roadways, industrial wastelands, and abandoned gardens assume sculptural properties. The Widelux camera, which pans across 140 degrees of landscape, can create visual distortions, bend objects that are rigidly strait, and shape an abstracted view of reality, results that Wilks uses to his advantage. In the 21 photographs included in *Spanning the Banks*, the bold forms of bridges, fences, and handrails unite the built environment with the fluid smoothness of the Hudson River, a rounded mountain, or a patch of grass.

“I want to show people things they can’t see with their own eye,” Wilks says of his work.

A native of New York City, Harry Wilks received his BA in art and design from City College of New York in 1967. He’s been described as an urban photographer who focuses his camera on unexpected scenes of his home city and the Hudson River Valley. His work has been shown in numerous exhibitions and added to museum and corporate collections such as the Brooklyn Museum, the George Eastman House, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Hallmark collection. He lives in Manhattan with his wife Tamar Zinn, a painter, and their son.

The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in downtown Albany, one block from the New York State Capitol. For more information on our exhibits, events, and activities, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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