

MAC WELLS 1925 - 2009
A Memorial Exhibition

and

Details & Reflections - Photographs by RAYMON ELOZUA

March 26 – May 8, 2011
Reception: July 24 5-7 PM

at
art sites

651 W. Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901 T 631 591 2401
Hours: Thursday – Sunday 12 – 5 PM www.artsitesgallery.com

ART SITES is honored to present its fourth exhibit of the works of Mac Wells. This is a memorial exhibition in recognition of Mac Well's lifetime devotion to art. This Orient resident was entranced by the light and ever changing sky above the Long Island Sound, visible from his studio window. But Mac's art is abstract, not an illustration. His subtle shifts in tone lend a deep serenity to the works. A student of Buddhism, Mac translates his inner calm on canvas. The mood of Mac's art seeps into one's consciousness, almost like viewing nature itself. This show is culled from the pieces he kept close at hand, such as a favorite painting, which hung in his living room, and the sketches made to explore ideas. After this show the works will travel to Maine to join an archive of his works in Lewiston, Maine.

Raymon Elozua, a sculptor, ceramic artist and photographer, is showing a second set of photographic explorations in a project called "Details & Reflections." In his last show, "Kitchen Table, he explored classic still life themes incorporating salvaged enamelware from deteriorating bungalow colonies in Sullivan County. In this show he has constructed 4'x 6' x 3' sculptural installations utilizing the same enamelware in conjunction with mirrors from abandoned bedroom sets. Still life photography is a means to memorialize the individuals and lives behind these containers. Yet these images become dynamic abstractions that emphasize the vibrant details of decay. Raymon is currently working to establish the Catskills Bungalow Heritage Museum that will preserve several vacation bungalows used by the mostly Jewish immigrants of New York City.

Raymon Elozua is a visual artist. He began his career creating scale photo-realist sculptures of American industrial architecture. In 1984, he undertook a multimedia project on the decline of the American steel industry. Traveling to mill towns across the country, he took photographs of abandoned mills, researched in public libraries, and scoured bookstores for any printed material related to the steel industry. In 1988, he completed the art project, "Home Scrap," a series of sculptures, paintings and photographs, accompanied by a printed catalog, shown in New York City and museums across the country.

Elozua has taught at New York University, Rhode Island School of Design and Louisiana State University and lectured at many other schools. He has received three National Endowment for the Arts grants in painting and sculpture and a New York Foundation for the Arts grant in ceramics. His art works are in numerous public and private collections. In May of 2003, the Mint Museum of Art and the Mint Museum of Craft and Design presented a career retrospective survey of his sculptures, paintings, photography and digital works. He has also created a number of websites based on his photography and other various interests: homescrap.us, rustybucket.us, vanishingcatskills.us

Mac Wells has been an active member of the American Abstract Artists since 1967. He conveyed his love of art to art students over 30 years of teaching at Hunter College. Mac Wells was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1925 and moved to New York in 1951. Wells showed with the A.M. Sachs, Max Hutchinson and Susan Caldwell Galleries in the 1960s and 1970s. During the 1960s the artist was close to the Park Place cooperative and exhibited paintings along with this group. In 1993 he was the recipient of a Mark Rothko Foundation Award Exhibition at ARTISTS SPACE in New York. His work is included in many collections, including The Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford CT, The Denver Museum of Art, Denver CO, The Santa Fe Museum, Santa Fe NM, Columbus Museum of Fine Art, Columbus OH, Larry Aldrich Museum, Ridgfield CT, and the Print Collections of the Guggenheim Museum, NY, The Whitney Museum of American Art, NY and The New York Public Library.