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Contact: Colleen Huddleson
VP and Chief Program Officer
260-422-6467, ext. 337
colleen.huddleson@fwmoa.org



America's Everglades: Through the Lens of Clyde Butcher

National Medal of Arts recipient exhibits a stunning collection of large-format black-and-white photographs that capture untouched parts of the nation's largest subtropical wilderness.

November 13, 2024 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is pleased to present “America’s Everglades: Through the Lens of Clyde Butcher” **now through January 26, 2025** in the Museum’s galleries at 311 E. Main Street. Known for his large-scale, black and white photography, recent National Medal of Arts recipient Clyde Butcher captures with astounding clarity precious landscapes and ecosystems across the United States, most notably, his home of the Florida Everglades.

This exhibition features 35 of Butcher’s prints developed between 1986 and 2009. He worked in color until the untimely death of his son in 1986, after which he vowed only to use black and white film. Using a variety of wide-format cameras, some from the mid-1800s, Butcher uses photography to bring conservation issues to the public eye. His success as an artist awarded him recognition as a humanitarian for his work towards bettering his community.

On October 21, Butcher was awarded The National Medal of Arts from President Biden. The Medal is the highest honor awarded by the U.S. government to artists and arts patrons, celebrating those who have significantly advanced the arts and enriched America’s cultural landscape. For over 50 years, Clyde Butcher has preserved on film the untouched beauty of landscapes, capturing intricate details and textures with large-format cameras. His work includes projects for organizations such as the South Florida Water Management District, Everglades National Park, Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and the Sierra Club, which awarded him the Ansel Adams Conservation Award. Butcher is also a recipient of Florida’s Artist Hall of Fame Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North American Nature Photography Association.

The exhibition was curated at FWMoA by Rachel Baum, Technical Assistant and organized by Window of the Eye, Inc. This exhibition is supported by the Edward D. and Lone Auer Foundation.

To celebrate the art of this acclaimed artist, FWMoA will host a **Second Thursday at FWMoA on November 14, 2024, from 5:00pm to 6:30pm**. Enjoy everything the Museum has to offer in an evening with free admission, cash bar, light appetizers and special perks for FWMoA Members. The evening will include a free “make and take” photography demonstration with local artist **Jarrid Spicer**. Visitors can also participate in a book signing with local photographer **Jim Gabbard**, who will be unveiling his new release “Photographer and Muse as One: Female Photographers and the Self-Portrait.” Check our events calendar for upcoming programs.

This exhibition is supported by the Edward D. and Lone Auer Foundation and Second Thursdays at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art are sponsored by ProFed Credit Union.

General admission to see this exhibition at the museum is free for FWMoA members, \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors 65+, and \$25 for families. General admission is free for everyone on Thursdays from 5-8pm.

Veterans, active military personnel, and their families receive free general admission. FWMoA gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm, Thursdays 10-8pm, and Sundays 12-5pm.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art: Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into the primary resource for the visual arts in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American Art, including the Steven Sorman Archives and more than 350 pieces of glass sculpture. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. This activity is made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

For more information, visit www.fwmoa.org.

Image Credit:

1. Clyde Butcher, "Clamshell Orchid," 13" x 18", Silver Gelatin Print, American, 2003
2. Clyde Butcher, "Gannet Strand #2," 52" x 100", Silver Gelatin Print, American, 1995
3. Clyde Butcher, "Indian Key Pass #5," 52" x 76", Silver Gelatin Print, American, 1997
4. Woody Walters, "Clyde in Swamp by Woody Walters 4C"
5. Clyde Butcher receiving National Medal of Arts

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