Event Lecture

Perimeter: A Contemporary Portrait of Lake Michigan

Kevin J. Miyazaki

Perimeter Book Signing and Reception with Kevin J. Miyazaki
September 17, 2014

In 2013, the Haggerty commissioned Milwaukee-based photographer Kevin J. Miyazaki to create an artwork reflecting on the importance of freshwater. Miyazaki consequently embarked on a two-week, 1,800-mile drive around Lake Michigan. He traveled its perimeter, through Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, to produce what he calls "a contemporary portrait of Lake Michigan." Miyazaki set up his portable studio on beaches, in parks, on boat docks, and in backyards, photographing those he met along the way. From residents, environmental scientists, and artists to a Native American water rights advocate, surfers, and commercial fishermen, Lake Michigan holds a powerful place in the life of each. Many shared their thoughts with him on why this body of water is important to all. Miyazaki also photographed the water as he went, creating waterscapes of the ever-changing lake affected by weather and time. Perimeter gathers these images together, creating a diverse portrait of both people and a place, encapsulating Lake Michigan's significance to those who are drawn to it.

The Perimeter project is now documented in a new book Perimeter: A Contemporary Portrait of Lake Michigan, published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. To celebrate the release of the book, the Haggerty will host a book signing and reception with the artist on Wednesday, September 17th at 6 p.m. at the Haggerty. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, please call 414-288-1669 or go to www.mu.edu/haggerty.