



Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association

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Laura Ruth Bidwell Photo Exhibit Opens in Seiberling Gallery

Peninsula, Ohio - Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibit, *The Park Portraits*, displaying photographs by Laura Ruth Bidwell. The show opens on Monday, May 4 and runs through Sunday, July 5 at the Seiberling Gallery, located in the administrative offices at 1403 W. Hines Hill Road Peninsula, Ohio. Gallery Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends upon request.

Photographing in Cuyahoga Valley National Park may seem to be an unlikely fit for Laura as she states, "I am not the outdoor type. The first time I stepped into the woods with my camera, I realized that I would need better shoes. And insect repellent. And sunblock."

How does one find what one is looking for in thousands of acres of National Park? By focusing on the romance and the decay, the strange and the beautiful. By returning to the same spot through the changes of four seasons.

She further explains, "I did not travel far from home and I did not stray off the official paths. I photographed what was in my way and put beauty in my way."

Janice Matteucci, COO of CVNPA states, "We are thrilled to have *The Park Portraits* exhibit in our gallery. Laura's exploration of Cuyahoga Valley National Park over this past year reveals details of the park that most visitors will never see, even though the photos were taken in some of the most visited areas of the park. Laura has an amazing eye for lighting and shadows and in each photo captures a moment of perfection."

Laura serves on the Board of the Akron Art Museum as Accessions Chair and was the Gallery Curator and Coordinator at Summit Artspace in Akron, from 2003 - 2007. She is also a mixed-media artist, videographer, and photographer. Laura was the 1999 First Night Akron featured artist. Her videos *Tropicana* and *After Night Falls* were shown during the exhibition. Her short video *808* was accepted into the Akron Independent Film Festival in 2008. Her photographs were included in the Akronography photography show at Summit Artspace in 2007.

CVNPA is a nonprofit, membership-based organization working in partnership with the National Park Service to provide innovative education and foster community support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. For more information on CVNPA, please visit www.cvnpa.org.

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