

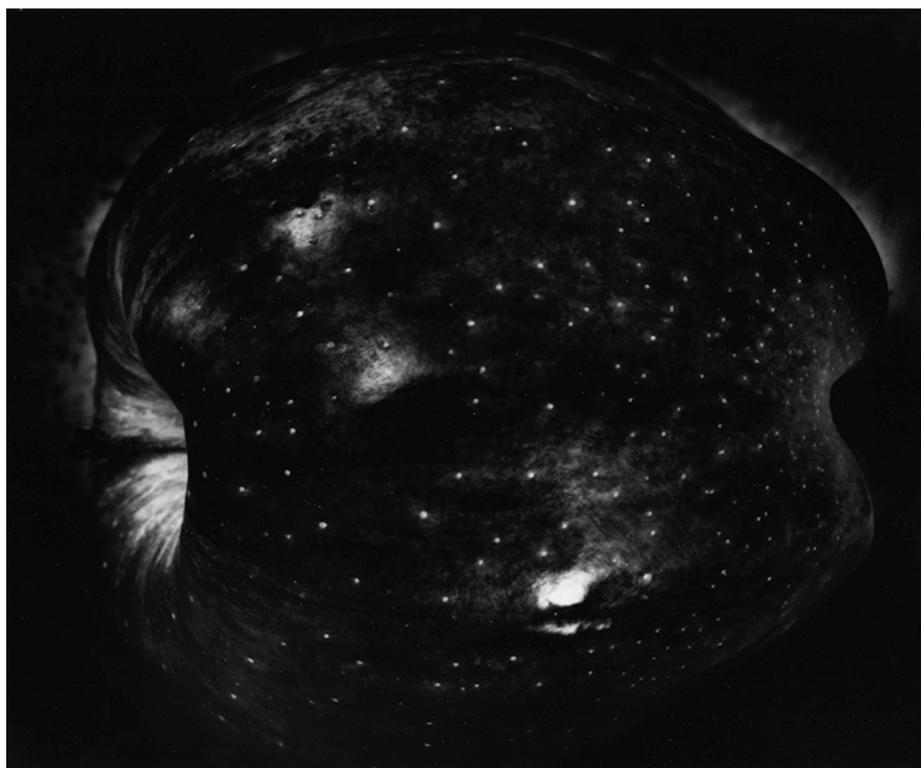


Presents:

PAUL CAPONIGRO : SIXTY YEARS

A retrospective exhibition by one of the world's most significant master photographers still working today.

Opening Reception: Friday, January 10, 2020, 5-7pm
Exhibition is on view through February 29, 2020



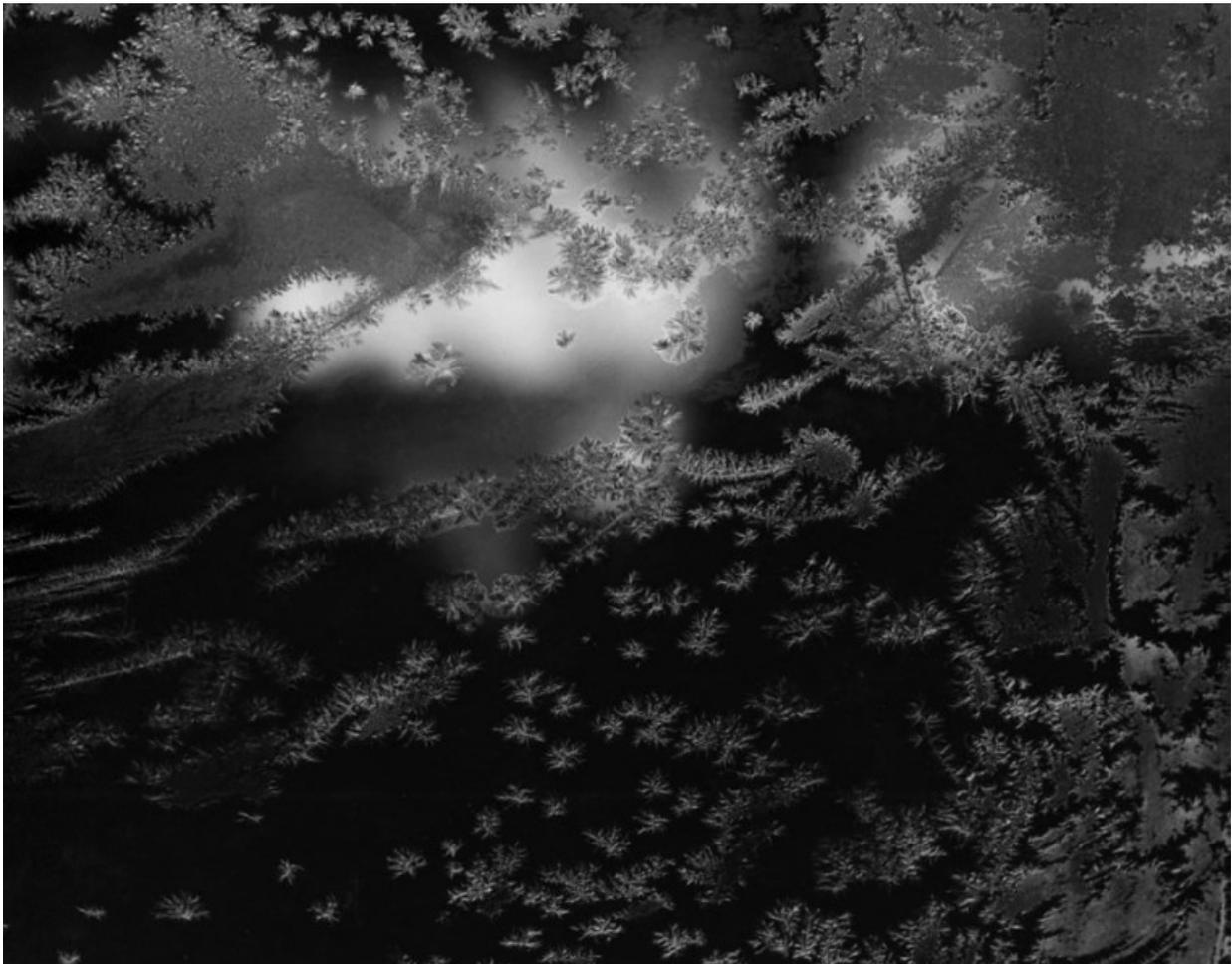
PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Galaxy Apple, New York City, 1964*, 7.25 x 8.5", gelatin silver print

Obscura Gallery is honored to announce a solo retrospective photographic exhibition of landscapes and still lifes by Paul Caponigro, one of the world's most significant master photographers still working today. The nearly 50 black and white images in the exhibition include work from as early as 1958 and encompasses his extensive career photographing in the Southwest, California, and New England, as well as Ireland and England. The show includes a selection of Paul's most iconic images as well as images that have never before been exhibited.

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Paul Caponigro was born in Boston in 1932 and spent a good portion of his young life in the creative arts. At the age of thirteen he became interested in photography, while also developing a strong passion for music. At the age of 18, he studied at the Boston University College of Music before deciding to focus on photography on the opposite coast at the California School of Fine Art, where Ansel Adams had established one of the first photography programs in the United States. Despite this shift from music to photography early in his artistic career, Caponigro remains a dedicated piano player who believes that his musical training and insight influences his photographic imagery. When asked in what way, he replied, “The patterns of the frost on a window give me the same feeling as musical notes when played on the piano...to this day my images of frost on windows continue to be my favorites for this reason.” One of the earliest prints we have in the exhibition is of frost on a window taken in 1957 in Ipswich, Massachusetts and reflects the emotion Paul speaks of.



PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Frosted Window, Ipswich, MA, 1957*, 10.25 x 12.25", gelatin silver print

Caponigro is best known for spiritual renditions that occur in natural forms, landscapes, and still lifes. His thirst for majestic subject matter has taken him to Stonehenge and other Celtic megaliths of England and Ireland; the temples, shrines and sacred gardens of Japan; the deep mystical woodlands of New England, and the coastal and grand landscapes of California.

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PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Stonehenge with Moon, England, 1972*, 6.5 x 8.25", gelatin silver print



PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Reflecting Stream, Redding, CT, 1968*, 13.5 x 18.75", gelatin silver print

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PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Running White Deer, Wicklow, Ireland, 1967*, 9 x 23.75", gelatin silver print



PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Merced River, Yosemite, CA, 1975*, 12.5 X 9.75", gelatin silver print

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It was the U.S. Army that brought Caponigro to California, Arizona, and then New Mexico, where he eventually landed for nearly 20 years. Photographer friends such as Bill Clift, an early student of Caponigro's and Ed Ranney both spread the good word of Northern New Mexico and finally Paul made the move in 1974. When asked about this time in his life he explains that New Mexico stands out among all the places he's lived, and he would still be here today if it weren't for the altitude which had a strong effect on his health, which is what led him back to Maine in 1992 to raise his son, and where he has resided since.



PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Cloud, San Sebastian, Santa Fe, NM, 1980*, 13.5 x 10.5", gelatin silver print



PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Orchard, Dixon, New Mexico, 1975*, 8.75 x 13.5", gelatin silver print

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PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Leaf on Wet Screen, Ipswich, MA, 1965*, 18 x 22", gelatin silver print

Paul Caponigro had his first solo exhibition at the George Eastman House in 1958 and his work has been shown in countless exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad. Throughout the 1960's he was a part-time teacher at Boston University while consulting on various technical research projects with the Polaroid Corporation. He has received two Guggenheim Fellowships and three National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants. In recognition of a career spanning nearly seventy years and a sustained, significant contribution to the art of photography, Caponigro was awarded The Royal Photographic Society's Centenary Medal and Honorary Fellowship in 2001.



PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Two Pears, Cushing, Maine, 1999*, 8.75 x 10.75", gelatin silver print

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When Obscura inquired with the artist to speak about his work for this exhibition, he eventually led into one of the most profound experiences he had that would change his life forever. Paul was living in California and had a severe fall off his back porch that dropped down off a cliff where he landed so hard onto granite rocks, that he did much internal damage to his body. When he speaks of this, his voice changes, almost excitedly, and he proceeds to talk about how he spent several days in the hospital in a near death experience where he was ultimately gifted life again. He speaks of the experience as not only profound for his recovery, but for his spiritual existence on this planet ever since. When asked if he thinks this experience changed the way he saw the world through his photography, he answered no, he never saw a difference in his work from before to after. And after only needing to contemplate this as nearly as quickly as we asked the question, neither do we.



PAUL CAPONIGRO, *Apple*, Winthrop, MA, 1964, 8.5 x 6.75", gelatin silver print

When looking through all the decades of work we have in the exhibition, there is such a consistent thread that runs throughout this master photographer's vision that one would be hard-pressed to find a change. Perhaps what makes Paul Caponigro such a master of the medium is how he can find beauty in sometimes simple, modest subject matter, how he can capture it both through the lens and in the meticulous fine printing of the black and white gelatin silver prints, and how the end result elevates its subject to such regal stature. It only proves that Paul always was, and continues to be, one of the major contributors to the history of photography for his profound way of interpreting the beauty around him for all of us to revel in. All that ran through my mind when he told me of this major experience was, aren't we, his viewers, lucky that he came back from that accident to continue giving us this incredible artistic gift?

For all the artists' images in the exhibition please visit the website link:

<https://www.obscuragallery.net/artwork/artists/paul-caponigro/>

For more information please contact:

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THE GALLERY LOCATION AND HOURS

Obscura Gallery is located in the Santa Fe downtown historic district two blocks east of the revitalized Downtown Railyard district. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11-5pm and by appointment.

Parking is limited. Additional parking is available Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 9:00pm at the State Capitol Parking Facility municipal garage located at 485 Galisteo Street. There is also metered parking always available on Galisteo street next to the Parking Facility.