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Watson Brown

Photographer of Rural Memories

After retiring from a 30 year career as a city planner and urban designer for Tarboro and Raleigh, North Carolina, Watson started a journey that would change his life and awaken his artistic soul. He began to photograph and document rapidly disappearing structures, the changing environment and a way of life unique to eastern North Carolina. He travels the back roads of the eastern counties searching for historic buildings, houses, landscapes, townscapes, scenes from another era and especially those things that may be lost to us within a few more years. He captures the beautiful, the downtrodden, the bizarre, the abandoned and the unique features of a land that began its history as early as any region in the United States. His photographs of empty plantation homes, dilapidated sharecropper houses or beautiful farm landscapes evoke haunting memories of another time in our history. His approach to this documentary project has evolved over time to create an almost unique art form through the use of textures, light, shadows and unique overlays, which often create the look of old paintings or which evoke a soul searching moodiness. Quite often his photographs are actually mistaken for paintings. His goal is to leave a legacy of photographs so future generations may know how we lived in the early 21st century. Watson was born in Edgecombe County and his family history traces back to the first settlements of the Carolinas. He is currently the fifth generation living in his family's Adelpia plantation house. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Geography, Urban Planning, Urban Design and Historic Preservation from East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has won numerous awards and honors during his career.

He is represented by Gallery C: 540 N. Blount Street • Raleigh, NC

Photography of
Eastern North Carolina

The North Carolina State Capitol Foundation Invites You To An

Exhibit by
Watson Brown

Sunday, November 22nd, 2015

3:00pm-5:00pm

State Capitol Rotunda

*Tickets available at the door
and online www.ncstatecapitol.org*

\$25.00 per person

No tickets will be mailed.

Name badges will be picked up at check-in.

To drop off a Guest, enter the grounds of the NC State Capitol from the circular drive off Edenton Street. Building access by ramp is available at the East door, which faces Wilmington Street (Christ Church). Parking is available on the street or in the state lot at the corner of Edenton and Wilmington Streets. Parking on Sunday is free.