

IU Museum marks 25th birthday of land trust with Ansel Adams show

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In recognition of the 25th anniversary of Sycamore Land Trust, the Indiana University Art Museum opened Nature's Small Wonders: Photographs by Ansel Adams, Jan. 13. The exhibit will be open until May 24.

Its kind of interesting because its really tying together his role as an advocate and a conservationist, as well as an artist, said Nanette Brewer, the Lucienne M. Glaubinger Curator of Works on Paper.

The museum has 27 vintage photographs printed and signed by Ansel Adams in their collection. These photographs are part of a portfolio series that Adams worked with the Sierra Club to publish. He took negatives from different time periods, and printed them for these limited edition portfolios.

Adams produced seven portfolios, and the museum has the complete first one, and a part of the third one.

I wanted to focus on what I call 'Nature's Small Wonders,' which are these macros, just something that people might not be as familiar with, Brewer said.

Adams portfolio one wasn't all nature images. It also contained portraits and photographs of architecture.

"So much of the conservation movement is not just Yosemite Valley, but preservation of our own natural treasures that might not be as grand, but are just as important. That's definitely a part of his work," Brewer said.

Only a small selection of the museums collections are on display in the gallery. Appointments can be made with Brewer to view the rest of the photographs.

To go along with this exhibit, and to continue to celebrate the Sycamore Land Trust, the museum will be showing a film and having a panel discussion from 2 to 3 p.m. March 1. Theyre showing The Inclusive Art, a 1960 documentary produced by WNET. Speakers include photographer Ric Cradick and executive director of Sycamore Land Trust Christian Freitag.

"It's amazing the amount of detail, as well as the rich tonal variety that he's able to get," Brewer said, referring to Adams prints.

If you go

The Indiana University Art Museum is located at 1133 E. Seventh St. Admission is free, and hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call 812-855-5445 or visit www.indiana.edu/~iuam.

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