

Finding Wyeth

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images & words Ewa Monika Zebrowski

Olson House, summer 2010



*I walked in, went upstairs, and suddenly I was startled.
There was another figure standing there.
It was me in a dusty mirror...
The reason I did it was that I wanted a portrait
of the dryness of the place,
that special sort of dryness of dead flies
that are left in a room that's been closed for years.*

ANDREW WYETH, *The Revenant*, 1949







A bouquet of tangled wildflowers,
tiny seashells in a bird's nest,
empty glass canning jars,
peeling wallpaper
and silence,
the residue of so much emotion
in this old weathered wooden house
on a hill,
filled with light
and vanished dreams,
the black horse wandering lost,
the apples ripe on the ground.





















The Olson House

Andrew Wyeth spent a lot of time, some three decades (1939-1968), at the Olson House, on the Cushing Peninsula in Maine, talking, sketching, painting, finding inspiration.

Alvaro and Christina Olson, the brother and sister who lived there, became his friends. He used an upstairs room as his studio, where he painted over 300 paintings.

It was the view from a third storey window that inspired his well known, iconic painting, *Christina's World*.

I visited the empty house during the summer of 2010, a house filled with tangible emotion and light. A house pregnant with stories and secrets.





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And thank you to Andrew and Betsy Wyeth for their legacy.

As artists we are never sure where and when we will find inspiration. Stepping into the Olson House was one of those charged moments of surprise and awe for me.

I discovered the Olson House in the company of my husband and my youngest son one summer morning.

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Quote *Two Worlds of Andrew Wyeth: Kuerners
and Olsons*, New York: Metropolitan
Museum of Art, 1976, page 146

All photographs of the Olson House were taken
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