

OBSCURED MODERNISM: THE GLASS HOUSE REVEALED

RICHARD BARNES

Dates: March 13-27, 2021
Location: 350 Dundas Street West, Toronto



“The Glass House is to modern architecture what the Mona Lisa is to painting, being one of the most overexposed and iconic expressions of its type, generating a cultural significance and cult-like status that persists today.”

—Richard Barnes

Never before exhibited, Bau-Xi Photo is pleased to present a selection of Richard Barnes’s 2014 photographs of the Philip Johnson Glass House. Deftly shot in New Canaan, Connecticut, this series captures the interaction between Philip Johnson’s iconic architectural masterpiece and Japanese artist Fujiko Nakaya’s encompassing fog installation, Veil.

In 2014, Barnes was commissioned by former Glass House director and chief curator, Henry Urbach, to document Nakaya’s installation. Fully immersing himself in the project, Barnes visited the active installation each month during its run. The resulting photographs capture the the Glass House compound like never before, and are a dramatic shift from the artist’s forensic documentation of Ted Kaczynski’s, the Unabomber’s, cabin.

Designed between 1945 and 1948, the Glass House is one structure within the residential compound comprised of several structures. It was the Glass House that introduced the International style to residential architecture—a style that is continuously interpreted in residential architecture today. Along with his contemporaries, Johnson championed Modern architecture throughout North America.

During its life, the Glass House had somewhat of a revolving door when it came to the artists and friends that would visit Johnson at the property. Isaiah Berlin, Shimon Peres, Barbara Walters, Kitty Carlisle Hart, and Andy

Warhol were all hosted by Johnson, creating what can be described as one of the greatest salons of the 20th century.

Locally, Philip Johnson has two completed projects in Toronto: the Canadian Broadcasting Centre, and a Penthouse on Bloor that is currently making headlines over an application for renovation.

ABOUT RICHARD BARNES

Richard Barnes graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. In the 1990's, he worked for Yale University/University of Pennsylvania as the excavation photographer on an archaeological site in Abydos, Egypt.

The artist was approached by the New York Times to photograph the Unabomber cabin in the FBI warehouse in Sacramento, California, along with the original site before its relocation in Montana. In 2006, the body of work was exhibited at the Whitney Biennial.

Richard Barnes has exhibited solo exhibitions at institutions such as the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego, the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, the Carpenter Center at Harvard University, Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, and the University of Michigan Art Museum. His works can be found in numerous public and private collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

The artist has been represented by Bau-Xi Gallery since 2010.

Image caption: Richard Barnes, *Night View Elevation with Sculpture*. Image © Richard Barnes, courtesy of Bau-Xi Gallery

BAU-XI GALLERY

Bau-Xi Gallery has flagship locations in Toronto and Vancouver. Bau-Xi Gallery acquired Foster/White Gallery (Seattle) in 2001, most recently acquiring Canada House Gallery (Banff) in 2018.