

## Celia Pearson

Celia Pearson has been a photographer for 30 years. Early experiences, on a farm outside of Washington, D.C. and on the coast of Maine, left impressions that are evident in her work. A photography class in 1973 with teacher Richard Bond in Annapolis, Maryland, sparked the passion that has defined her adult life.

As a young photographer, Pearson practiced her art and exhibited in Annapolis galleries. In 1979, she established Pearson Photography and turned her attention to accepting assignments. She gradually mastered medium and large format film-based photography and became an accomplished black-and-white and color (Cibachrome/Ilfochrome) printer.

As an assignment photographer, Pearson has specialized in photographs of designed spaces created around natural light, earning a national reputation for her images of interiors, architecture and gardens. Her assignment portfolio has included publications such as Metropolitan Home, Southern Accents, Coastal Living, Chesapeake Life, Style Magazine, and Residential Architect.

While continuing to focus on her assignment work, 15 years ago Pearson returned as well to the inner driven work that was the source of her initial inspiration as a photographer. The artist's work has been shown in galleries in Maryland, Delaware, Massachusetts, Florida, and Washington, D.C., and is in the permanent collection of the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland.

In 2004, Pearson added two coffee table books to her credits: Wayne L. Good, Architect: Tradition, Elegance, Repose, which is a monograph published in four languages; and Pure Sea Glass, written and published by Richard LaMotte. The very popular Pure Sea Glass has had unprecedented success for a self-published book. More than 85,000 copies have been sold to date.

Pearson's inner driven work is naturally closest to her heart and currently much of her time is spent in this pursuit. Her affinity for photographing with the camera often only inches from her subjects is well known. Trips to Southeast Asia in 2008 and early 2009, which she describes as transforming, are sending her in new directions as well. She continues to be inspired by sea glass, a focus that began with the assignment to photograph the book Pure Sea Glass.

In the last few years, speaking together with images has caught Pearson's imagination and so she has added talks to her list of endeavors. Drawing from three decades of practice and an extensive library of images, she shares her work and her reflections about the practice and joy of seeing, the challenges of living by one's passion and wits, and how paying attention can transform a life.

Pearson lives in Annapolis, Maryland. She is a member of the American Society of Media Photographers and the Maryland Federation of Art, where she served on the board as fundraising chair for four years. In mid-career Pearson received an honorary YWCA TWIN Award (Tribute to Women and Industry). As a result of the book Pure Sea Glass, Pearson's work came to the attention of Maryland Public Television and was the subject of a segment on ArtWorks in October 2004. Pearson was the recipient of the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County's 2007 Annie Award for Visual Arts.

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