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PHOTOGRAPHER TED KAWALERSKI CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF THE HUDSON IN BEACON INSTITUTE EXHIBITION

New exhibit showcases Kawalerski's 20-year love affair with the river and its people

Beacon, NY – September 10, 2008 – The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries today announced it will host an exhibition of special photographs created by photographer Ted Kawalerski focusing on life and the environment in and around the Hudson River. Titled *Top to Bottom— The Hudson River*, the exhibit will run from October 4, 2008 through March 1, 2009 at the Institute's gallery located at 199 Main Street in Beacon, New York.

With this photographic exhibit, *Top to Bottom—The Hudson River*, Kawalerski shares with viewers his deep personal connection to the Hudson River and his affection for the multicultural diversity of people who live along its banks. The photographs convey his unique perspective on what people who live in river communities see every day, as well as what he has personally witnessed during this 20-year project. From a large area of the coastline that has been industrial for many years to old manufacturing facilities, train tracks and power lines – all are part of the landscape and worthy of inclusion in his rich tapestry of light, nature, humans and manmade form. Rather than look away, Kawalerski carefully integrates this aesthetic with the untouched and pristine elements of the river.

At first glance, one immediately grasps both the visceral and ethereal relationship Kawalerski has established with the river's expanse, which begins at Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondacks and ends in lower Manhattan. His photographs – all black & white – illustrate the majestic beauty of the Hudson's landscape, along with its blemishes, and combine both to create a perspective that is honest, accurate and sincere. Equally impressive are the portraits of those who live along the river's banks. Kawalerski has captured the essence of their being, often visiting with his subjects several times without ever lifting the camera to his eye. The result is an amazing collection of visual stories told through the eyes of those who invited Kawalerski into their lives. These images reveal the inner stories of his subjects and their sense of pride as if they were the personal gatekeepers and protectors of the river.

“Humans and nature meet on the banks of the world's rivers and estuaries with profound consequences for each,” asserts John Cronin, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Beacon Institute, noting that Kawalerski's work is an artistic complement to Beacon Institute's mission

to create and maintain a global center for scientific and technological innovation that advances research, education and public policy regarding rivers and estuaries. “Ted Kawalerski’s photographs capture with depth and clarity both the beauty and the heartbreak of humankind’s intimate and complicated relationship with the Hudson.”

“I am very excited to have my photographs of the Hudson River exhibited at the Beacon Institute,” says Kawalerski. “This exhibit is the culmination of a labor of love that began two decades ago and has grown and evolved into a complex body of work that represents my most personal and treasured views of the river and its people. For me, there is no better venue through which to share my photographs of the Hudson River and the stories of the people and landscapes along its banks.”

The exhibit will open with a **public reception for the artist on Saturday, October 4, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. in the Institute’s gallery at 199 Main Street in Beacon.** The opening reception is generously underwritten by the law firm of [Gellert & Klein, P.C.](#)

Kawalerski will hold a public Q&A session at the Beacon Institute on Saturday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m. The talk is free and open to the public.

Beacon Institute gallery hours: Weekdays 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturdays 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (second Saturdays until 8 p.m.); and Sundays 12 p.m.–5 p.m. For more information call (845) 838-1600 ext 16 or visit www.bire.org.

About Ted Kawalerski:

Ted Kawalerski is a New York City-based photographer who has worked on assignments for corporations, graphic design firms and advertising agencies for over 30 years. He regularly travels worldwide for clients such as AIG, Chevron, Energy East, Ernst & Young, Harris Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, Liberty Mutual, MasterCard, Medco, Praxair, The Hartford, United Technologies Corporation, Xerox and many others.

Kawalerski lives in Sleepy Hollow, just north of the Tappan Zee Bridge in Westchester County, where he was inspired to begin his exploration of the wonders of the Hudson.

About Beacon Institute:

Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, with offices in Beacon and Troy, New York, is a not-for-profit environmental research organization engaging scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts in collaborative work focusing on real-time monitoring of river ecosystems. It aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for scientific and technological innovation that advances research, education and public policy regarding rivers and estuaries. www.bire.org

Editor’s Note: Hi-res images from Ted Kawalerski’s Hudson River collection are available for publication upon request.