

Emmet and Edith Gowin

Emmet Gowin was born December 22, 1941, in Danville, Virginia. He received a BFA in Graphic Design from the Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University) in 1965 and an MFA in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1967.

While at RISD, Gowin studied with photographer Harry Callahan, who became one of his mentors and greatest influences. Following his marriage to Edith Morris, also of Danville, in 1964, Gowin began making memorable portraits of her as well as her family members. In addition to his work in portraiture, Gowin has explored landscape and aerial photography since the 1980s, documenting sites in the Czech Republic, Mexico, the Middle East, Japan, and the United States. This series addresses concerns over, among other issues, the global impact on the environment of irrigation and industrial scale agriculture, natural resource mining, and military occupation and weapons testing.

For nearly four decades, Gowin's work has been included in exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad. His solo shows include those at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1971) and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (1983). Gowin's first midcareer retrospective was organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art and later traveled to seven venues (1990-93); his first European retrospective appeared at the Espace Photographie Marie de Paris (1992). The Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, initiated a traveling exhibition, *Changing the Earth*, that included eight total venues across the country (2002-2004). A career retrospective was organized in 2013 by the Foundation Mapfre, Madrid, who published, *Emmet Gowin*, in association with Aperture, which accompanied the exhibition to Madrid, Bilbao, Paris, and Bogota.

Gowin has had three exhibitions in his hometown at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History: *Photographs: Emmet Gowin and Glenn Scarborough* (1975); *Emmet Gowin: Changing the Earth, with Glenn Scarborough: Drawing with Light* (2004), and *Nine Visions: Photography with Southern Vision* (2011).

Throughout his career, Gowin has received numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship (1974), two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships (1977, 1979), the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts from the State of Pennsylvania (1983), the Friends of Photography Peer Award (1992), and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts (1993). Gowin taught in the Visual Arts Program at Princeton University from 1973 until his retirement in 2010 and was honored with the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1997.

Gowin's work can be found in museum collections worldwide, including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Cleveland Museum of Art; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the Maison Européenne la Photographie, Paris; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Tokyo Museum of Art; the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, and the National Gallery, Washington, D.C.

Monographs published on Gowin's work include *Emmet Gowin / Photographs* (1976); *Emmet Gowin / Photographs 1966-1983* (1983); *Emmet Gowin / Photographs: This Vegetable Earth is But A Shadow* (1990); *Emmet Gowin: Aerial Photographs* (1998); *Emmet Gowin: Changing the Earth* (2002); *Mariposas Nocturnas – Edith in Panama* (2006); *Emmet Gowin, "A Fifty-year Retrospective"* (2013).