

# whatinspiresMe

## 35 years on, Hudson excites artistic vision

*Editor's note: What Inspires Me is a regular feature in Enjoy! that asks visual and performing artists and writers about the passions that motivate them to create or perform. If you would like to write about your passion for this feature, email bfarrell@poughkeepsiejournal.com.*

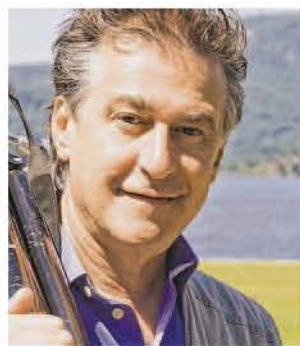
My life's work is photographing the Hudson River. Early on, I discovered it was the subject, the river, that yielded the powerful images emerging from my darkroom. In the resulting black-and-white prints, I recognized the Hudson's grandeur: its surrounding mountains as well as the mountains of industry, its landscapes, its people, its beauty from where it begins at Lake Tear of the Clouds to where it flows into the Atlantic.

I found my inspiration. After 35 years, the Hudson continues to give back to me each time I visit its shores.

In my development as a photographer, I began to consider other elements of expression — light, line, shadow, form and, more recently, color in the abstract. I recognized that the water attracted me and stimulated my vision: the glistenings, the magnifying effects, the glow, the ripples.

My work brings me to many places where I come upon the hard to find, the obscure and even the enigmatic. When I approach subjects I first see the essential element of light. As the light shifts, it affects the moods, emotions and feelings evoked from the picture. This infinity of ever-changing light upon subjects provides endless photographic opportunities.

Recently, I have been looking at the elemental



**Joseph Squillante** CAROL CAPOBIANCO/COURTESY PHOTO

shapes in nature and beyond. This perspective, along with my shift to shooting with digital cameras and in color, has led to my creation of abstract forms. Selections from this new body of work as well as from my classics portfolio are included in my exhibition "A Closer Look: The Hudson River at the Beacon Institute."

My influences have long been the masters of photography, especially André Kertész and Edward Weston. I am now studying painters. Among them are the Hudson River School artists, Marcel Duchamp and the New York Armory Show of 1913, abstract expressionists, and Piet Mondrian.

I have been blessed with the sublime gift of appreciation of the Hudson and the ability to capture it in a way that reaches wide audiences. Even when I take the train into Manhattan on the Hudson Line, I find myself gazing in awe of this magnificent place.

*Joseph Squillante and his wife, Carol Capobianco, are founders of the Hudson River School of Photography. Squillante's work is sold through Getty Images, in New York and through his studio, Silver Ink in Peekskill. Squillante is a member of the American Society of Media Photog-*



"Peekskill Bay." Peekskill Bay from Riverfront Green Park, looking north toward the gateway into the Highlands.

JOSEPH SQUILLANTE/COURTESY PHOTO

### IF YOU GO

**What:** "A Closer Look: The Hudson River," exhibit of photographs by Joseph Squillante

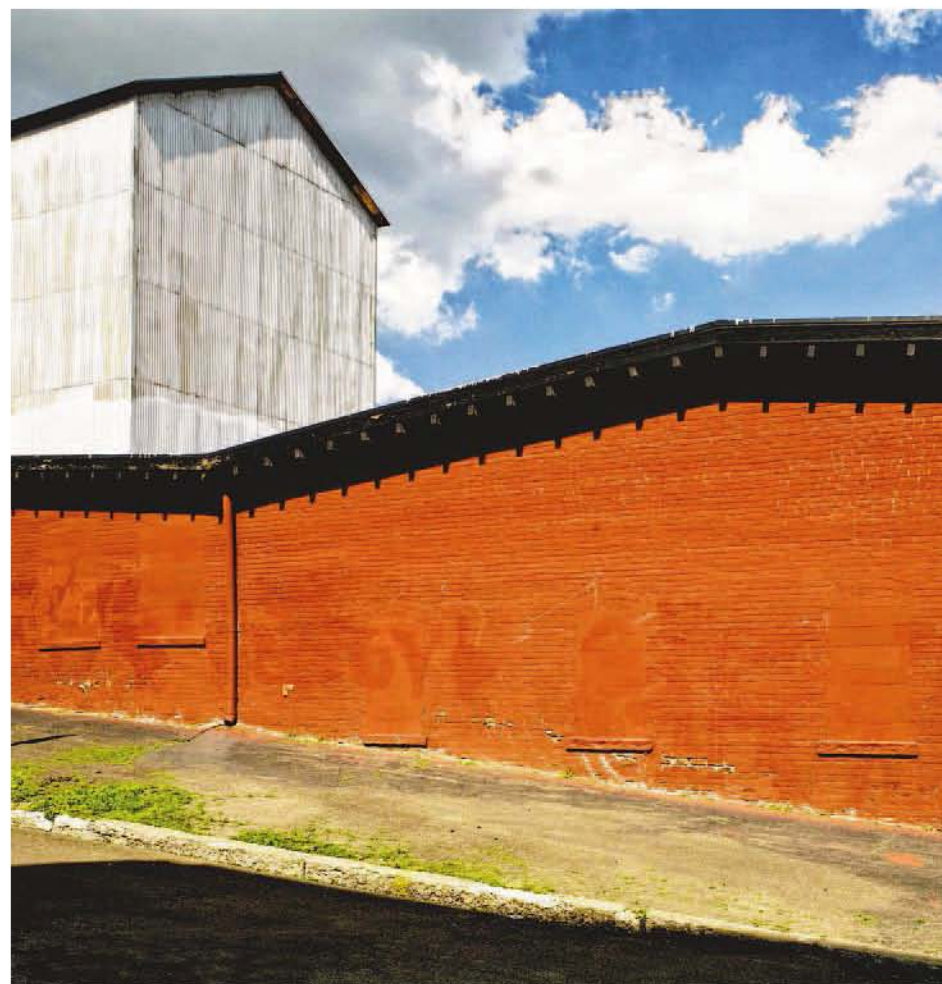
**When:** 5-7 p.m. Oct. 12, opening reception; exhibit runs through March 2; regular gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m., second Saturdays; noon-5 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** Gallery at Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, 199 Main St., Beacon

**Admission:** Free

**Information:** Call 845-838-1600, Ext. 10; visit [www.bire.org](http://www.bire.org)

*raphers, ArtsWestchester Teaching Artist Roster and the Peekskill Arts Alliance. He is vice chairman of the Historic and Landmarks Preservation Board for the City of Peekskill. Visit [www.HudsonRiverPhotography.com](http://www.HudsonRiverPhotography.com).*



"Newburgh Red." A Newburgh warehouse type building is a few blocks uphill from the Hudson River. JOSEPH SQUILLANTE/COURTESY PHOTO