



For Immediate Release

Scheinbaum "In The Presence of Heroes," Archive finds permanent home at The New Mexico Military Museum.



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The New Mexico Military Museum recently added a new acquisition to our collection with "In The Presence of Heroes," a photography archive of David Scheinbaum. The archive contains his work and documentation during his journey to the 50th Anniversary of D-day in 1994 accompanying his parents to La-Haye-du-Puits, France, a town that his father Louis Scheinbaum liberated during WW2.

"In The Presence of Heroes," is a vast archive of fine art photographs, a personal journal, correspondence, ephemera, including celebratory bottles of wine and beer. A special supplement from the *Santa Fe New Mexican* is the article produced from Mr. Scheinbaum's archive. Combining a personal essay and photographs resulted in the publication of "In The Presence of Heroes," in the July 4th, 1994, issue of the *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

Through written essay and photography David Scheinbaum documented his journey to the beachheads and towns of Normandy. He was transformed by witnessing the lasting generational effects of gratitude and reverence that were still so powerfully held in the hearts of the grandchildren of the townsfolk liberated by his father Louis Scheinbaum.

The 79th infantry Division landed on Utah Beach in Normandy on D-Day plus six. Six months later its reputation was so widespread that a German division warned its units to watch out for the 79th and were regarded as one of the best attack divisions in the U.S. Army. The first major mission assigned to the 79th Division was an important role sharing in the assault on Cherbourg. On June 26 the city was liberated, and the next day they were on route to La-Haye-du-Puits, the German supply center for forces in Northern France. Battling their way through hedgerow after hedgerow La-Haye-du-Puits was liberated on July 8th, 1944. Louis Scheinbaum was a Medic. His primary aim and duties were to the care of the wounded, although it carried him frequently into areas of great danger. He pursued his goal without hesitation under whatever conditions prevailed. On several occasions he went well in advance of friendly lines to administer medical treatment to the wounded men of his unit. The combined courage and devotion to the welfare of his fellow soldiers exhibited by Mr. Scheinbaum reflect what an enduring asset he was to the Armed Forces of the United States. Louis Scheinbaum maintained an attitude of humility in his writings to his sweetheart, "A lot of the other men did much more than I did, and we don't care for any medals." He goes on to speak about fighting for his home "the five points" that being his true motivation.

During their 1994 journey Louis Scheinbaum was transported to when he had arrived fifty years prior, and his son David stood as his witness, "Your Dad got the chance to revisit a time in his life that was at the core of his being, a time, you may never have fully comprehended before. He also lived to receive a tribute from his son – a son so different from himself yet still apart of him – a tribute so personal yet so far reaching to share such a moment with a son, and for the son to turn that moment into a treasure of love and understanding...made tangible." The shared sentiment in correspondence with a family friend of the Scheinbaum's wholly captures what a transformative experience this was for the individuals as well as the family and their relationships.

The archive includes 110 fine art photographs that will expand the New Mexico Military Museums holdings of Fine Art. We consider receiving this donation as a great honor, to take part in preserving the stories and journeys of these men.

David Scheinbaum is former Director/Chair of the Photography Department and the Marion Center for Photographic Arts at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design, and Professor Emeritus, College of Santa Fe.

His photographs of New Mexico's Bisti Badlands can be found in his book *Bisti*, published by the University of New Mexico Press, 1987. In 1990 Florida International University Press published *Miami Beach: Photographs of an American Dream*. This work is now archived at the History Miami Museum. In 2006 The Museum of New Mexico Press published, *Stone: A Substantial Witness. Hip Hop: Portraits of an Urban Hymn*, Damiani Editore, was published in 2012. This work was exhibited at The National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, entitled *Recognize: Hip-Hop and Contemporary Portraiture*, 2008. The work was also exhibited as part of the exhibition, *Clubs, Joints and Honky-Tonks*, at the Norton Museum of Art, 2012 and at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, 2015, *Hip Hop; du Bronx aux Rues Arabes*. This work is now archived at Cornell University.

He and his wife, Janet Russek, have collaborated on three projects: *Ghost Ranch: Land of Light*, Photographs by David Scheinbaum and Janet Russek, Balcony Press, 1997; *Images in the Heavens, Patterns on the Earth: The I Ching*, Museum of New Mexico Press, 2005; and *Remnants: Photographs of the Lower East Side*, Radius Books, 2017. Together they operate Scheinbaum & Russek Ltd., private fine art photography dealers and consultants in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 2017 Scheinbaum focused on the production of paper negatives addressing black culture and racism in America. The work was exhibited at the Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2018, and traveled to the Windgate Studio + Design Center at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, in 2020. From 2016 to 2019 he photographed in the holy city of Varanasi, India. These images trace life and ceremony along the Ganges River. His forthcoming book of this work will be released in November 2022, *Varanasi: City Immersed In Prayer*, George F. Thompson Publishing.

In his current work he focuses his energies producing Ensō imagery and photograms in his darkroom using photographic chemistry and paper to produce calligraphic drawings.

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