



Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Contact: George Palovich
623/972-0635, ext 26 8:00am—noon
gpalovich@wvam.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neil Miller
“An Egyptian Experience”
September 22 through November 26, 2006

Neil Miller received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography from Ohio University in 1969. He completed his graduate work at Arizona State University in 1977. Now a freelance photojournalist, Miller works for KSAZ tv, KOOL tv and KTSP tv. He has also taught at several Community Colleges and Universities in the Valley.

While in the Navy, he was a Photographers Mate in the Atlantic Fleet Combat Camera Group. Assignments ranged from NATO exercises in the North Atlantic, to earthquake coverage in Peru, to Apollo Lunar Mission backup landing sites in the Atlantic. After completing active duty, Neil settled in Phoenix, Arizona. His first position was as a news photographer for KOOL TV channel 10 the local CBS affiliate. He continued at KOOL in a part time position when and accepted full time employment at Arizona State University in the Audiovisual Department as a Media Production Specialist. The job entailed producing slide and film media programs for campus use. His department also produced educational programs used to teach photography.

After attending an Ansel Adams Photography Workshop in Yosemite National Park, Miller changed his attitude, methods and approach to photography. This diversified program allowed attendees to work with artists including Ansel Adams, Jerry Uelsmann, David Muench, Wynn Bullock and Judy Dater. During a period of five years, Miller went back as an assistant at the Ansel Adams workshops and later at the Friends of Photography workshops. During this time he was able to work and study with Frederick Sommer, Gary Winogrand, Clarence John Laughlin, Linda Connor and W. Eugene Smith among other photographic artists. An added benefit of the workshop experience was the many long-term friendships that developed with the participants and other assistants.

While working at ASU Neil maintained a part time position at KOOL TV working as a news photographer. In the early 1980's when he started teaching part time, his work at Channel 10 went to full time. This is the position he holds today although Channel 10 is now a Fox owned and operated station.

Of his career, Miller says: “My interests are extensive. At heart I am a collector of anything from stamps and coins to sports cars. This would also include new and vintage photographs, books, cameras, tools, records, suitcases and a raft of other debris. I have an interest in travel, hiking, camping, the Morgan Motor Car and Ham Radio. Through my work at Channel 10 I have developed interests in people and the ways they cope with the joys and problems of life. Much of my photographic work is a reaction to these interests and experiences. It is with a camera and an understanding wife that I have traveled through life.”

In discussing the photos in the exhibition the photographer has said: “I look forward to new experiences in my travels. Egypt offered an opportunity and challenge to view and record on film a society with a vast history. In the context of current happenings, Islamic countries like Egypt bring out strong opinions and strong

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



emotions. I had no way of knowing the true feelings and attitudes of the people I interacted with, although there were indications along the way. Many very positive experiences occurred. A walk along the Nile in Cairo during the Easter celebration showed how friendly the people could be. A night spent at a couple's wedding was to me a celebration of life. Listening to our taxi driver singing as he drove after dark from the west bank to the train station in Luxor was delightful. But knowing tourists were not allowed out on the west bank after sunset gave us pause. There were times when our driver in Cairo would not relay to us what someone said as we passed. And there were times our cultural differences stood out. It was apparent that the government was trying very hard to control the society. Security was everywhere.

The photographs in this exhibit are partly an extension of several themes I have been developing for many years. Overall, it is a response to a way of life I find unusual and mysterious. The work was complicated by a language and cultural barrier that took a bit of time to overcome. My goal was to interact with this environment by recording the relationship of people, places and items in a various spontaneous ways. Certain subjects were photographed more deliberately than others. The most satisfying images for me are the most natural. After a short time, the people I photographed became curious and very open. In fact some of the opportunities for subtle images were lost at this point. These results were more like family photos from anywhere. There is no doubt that this experience has enlightened me and given the chance I would return."

If you wish to contact Mr. Miller:
Neil A. Miller

Home 480 893-1112 Available Sunday thru Wednesday AM
Pager 602 360-0967 Call and leave number and I will return call

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



Neil Miller



West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.