



**For Immediate Release**

Media Contact:  
Lisa A. Shenkle  
410.439.4695

[lisa@verbcommunications.com](mailto:lisa@verbcommunications.com)

***Markings: Stunning New Photographs Reveal Man's Indelible Imprint on the Earth***

Washington, D.C. — In his latest book *Markings* (Bergamot Books/ISBN 978-0-9760905-4-0, 96 pages/45 illustrations, \$40.00), photographer Maxwell MacKenzie rises above America's heartland to focus sharply on man's markings on the landscape. From his ultra-light aircraft, MacKenzie soars above farmland and lake, river and prairie to capture man's engravings—or *markings*—carved in various rhythms and shapes—the original purpose of which may be known only to the patterns' creators. William Dunlap, one of America's leading pastoral painters and multi-media artists, wrote the book's foreword, and author Michael Pollan's cover endorsement praises the photographs originality for capturing “a landscape we've never seen before, a whole new face of America.”

MacKenzie's photos honor both organic form and man's intentional markings on the land. Some photographs capture abstract designs in the landscape while other “markings” are as dimensional and exacting as a Navajo blanket—imprints that are at once artistic and practical in their purpose. The kinship between man, earth and humankind's impact on it, whether carved into earth's crust or naturally occurring, resonates throughout the book's images.

“Man marks the earth,” says MacKenzie “it is a basic manmade addition to the natural landscape, integrated with land's organic architecture.”

Along with his ethereal images, MacKenzie carefully selected lines from poetry to mirror his feelings for a particular moment of light, shadow, and land. For a sunset shot, he quotes from Chief Crowfoot of the Blackfoot Nation: “*What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.*”

The artist's desire to harness flight is in part a homage to his late father who was a combat fighter pilot in World War II; it is also Mackenzie's means to furthering his career-long study of the land in minute subtleties of shadow and light, from a new, striking vantage point at once magical and poetic.

-more-

For this series of photographs, MacKenzie piloted a “Six-Chuter Skye-Ryder Aerochute,” steering with his feet, 30-mph over farm and plain, his Nikon F5 camera with Ken-Lab gyrostabilizer mounted to the frame. Over the past five years, he has shot thousands of rolls of film, distilling his finest work down to the photographs presented in this volume.

While Mackenzie’s two previous books, *Abandonings* (1995) and *American Ruins* (2001) focused on stark farmscapes and their mesmerizing structures, his new study from the air discovers and documents an abstract vision of nature and man’s markings on it. From the lines of plowed, planted or fallow fields to undulating curves and curlicues, MacKenzie’s brilliance with texture, light and shadow is unsurpassed in this new photographic essay from the sky that brings man, nature and structure into arresting context.

In presenting this beauty of place, this heartland that feeds us, this earth that we share with all forms of nature, MacKenzie inspires the wisdom in us to preserve, to cherish.

MacKenzie’s latest work will be on view at the American Institute of Architects, Washington, D.C., in October 2007. For information please visit: <http://www.aiadc.com/>

###

#### About the Author

Our heartland’s scenery played an important role in MacKenzie’s life. He was born in Ottertail County in rural western Minnesota in 1952 and throughout his youth summered with his maternal grandparents at Otter Tail Lake. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and earned a B.A. from Bennington College in architecture and photography. He is a well-known architectural photographer whose commercial images have appeared in *Architecture*, *British Journal of Photography*, *Architecture D.C.*, *Hospitality Design* among others. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, artist Rebecca Cross and their two sons, and continues to summer in the Ottertail area, in a restored schoolhouse with a glass façade allowing home and nature to interconnect.



Bergamot Books, Washington, D.C. and Berkeley ([www.bergamotbooks.net](http://www.bergamotbooks.net)), is dedicated to beautiful bookmaking traditions and cultivation of the arts and humanities. Founded by Gail Spilsbury, Bergamot works with authors, collectors, artists, museums, and organizations to create fine books aimed at specialized audiences. Recent titles include *Adolf Cluss*, *Architect*, *The Kreeger Museum* and *Carbide Light: The Last Flame in American Mines* by Dave Thorpe.

For more information on upcoming book signings and appearances go to [www.maxwellmackenzie.com](http://www.maxwellmackenzie.com) and [www.bergamotbooks.net](http://www.bergamotbooks.net)  
Photographs for print review available upon request.