

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Idyllwild Idyll

Rick Meghiddo · Wednesday, September 13th, 2017

[Idyllwild Idyll](#) from [Rick Meghiddo](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The planets were aligned in an uncommonly rare position: a) Architect [John Lautner](#)'s [Pearlman cabin in Idyllwild](#) was scheduled to be open to the public (subject to RSVP + fee) on Labor Day, September 4; b) It coincided with our anniversary; c) We had not been in Idyllwild for about fifteen years; d) We didn't have a real vacation for a very long time; e) An organic architect from New Zeland, [Peter Crenwell](#), whom I "discovered" while doing research for "The Wright Way," wrote me that he had a friend living in Idyllwild, [Michael Newberry](#), a painter. It took us minutes to decide that the time was right for "time out." I checked for availability at the place we used to go when our daughter was young. We liked it because it was simple and it had a large glazed wall which allowed us to see a forest as soon as we opened our eyes in the morning. I made a reservation for four days of "idyll."

We did not have any program other than walking through nature and filming without a script, visiting the Lautner's cabin, and meeting with Michael Newberry. In slightly over two-hour drive from home, we were at an altitude of 6,000 feet. For a mid-summer day, the temperature was about 75 F at noon. The air was clean. The horizon was wide and deep.

Idyllwild has not changed much since we first came here about thirty years ago to spend a couple of weeks taking classes at I.S.O.M.A.T.A ., now called [Idyllwild Arts](#). A place that attracted artists and "city refugees," Idyllwild seemed to send a message of lifestyle simplicity in contact with nature for a planet that can not sustain the on-going consumeristic alienation of the developed world. In some ways, the Pearlman cabin represented that kind of vision for the future with creative simplicity.

Getting in touch with nature is a good way of going back to fundamentals delivered by boulders and trees: life and death, change, the nature of materials, gravity, light and shadow, adaptation and wise economy of form.



Pearlman Cabin, Detail I – Architect: John Lautner



Pearlman Cabin, Detail – Architect: John Lautner



Flow 1, oil on canvas, 20" x 24"



Michael Newberry



Manzanita Detail



Hiking

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