

Richard Wayman

Having studied photography at the London College of Printing Wayman graduated in 1986 (BA Hons). His final year project was a documentary work about the closure of Tin mines in Cornwall, UK. The work was exhibited at The Mall Galleries in London. After three years working in restaurants to get money and build a professional portfolio Wayman embarked on a career in photojournalism for some of the World's most renowned publications including National Geographic, Time magazine, Stern, The Independent and Guardian newspapers. Throughout the 1990's he covered many of the conflicts that grabbed the headlines - Iraq, Former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. But he also sought out Stories that didn't attract mass-media attention - human-rights in Turkey, rebuilding eastern Europe and environmental problems in Central Asia.

It was whilst he was living in Central Asia - based for three years in Tashkent - that he produced photographs for various United Nations reports. From drugs control to education initiatives the pictures were used to promote and inform about the UN in the region. He also managed to shoot TV stories for BBC World in between photo assignments in 'The Stans' - Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. In 2001 Wayman was invited to exhibit work at the Earagail Arts Festival and his exhibition "The Kurds: A Nation without a State" was shown at the Ardara Artists Resource Center in Co. Donegal.

His relationship with Ardara blossomed and he returned there with another exhibition in 2002 of portrait photographs of local people. He finally left London and moved to live permanently in Ardara in 2003. Connections and friends led to the creation of a large body of work about the life of Ardara and her people. With funding from the Per-Cent for Art scheme this work was distilled into a book - "Cith Is Dealan" which will be published by Donegal County Council in 2006.

Having spent all of his career in photography making images of people Wayman, inspired by the rugged beauty and tranquillity of Donegal, began to photograph the landscape. Images in both colour and black/white have been exhibited in small venues in Ardara.