



RICHARD MALOGORSKI

'SCHOOL YARD NEAR TOLSTOY, SOUTH DAKOTA' is one of Richard Malogorski's photos on display at the Dayton Art Institute.

# DAI exhibit a panoramic visual experience

*Photographer absorbs flavor of venues he's captured on film*

BY PAMELA DILLON  
For the Dayton Daily News

**DAYTON** — If you haven't taken a trip out west recently and miss the quiet beauty of barren towns or the slow pace of a meandering road trip, there's no need to call your travel agent. Just set aside some time during the next several months to visit Richard Malogorski's photographic exhibition in the Regional Gallery of the Dayton Art Institute.

There you can view 29 prints of churches, graveyards, abandoned cars, one-room schoolhouses and old-time machine shops from his two-week August trip through Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and the Dakotas. Malogorski specializes in black-and-white, large-format and panoramic photography.

The town of Ventura, N.D., is shown in full 360-degree format. Only 23 people live in this tiny prairie village. The print shows the post office, grain elevator, lumber mill, garage, school and grocery store, all abandoned. Only one spot, the Duck Inn Bar, was open.

"I went into the bar and asked how they could possibly make a living. The two men who ran it were semi-retired and treated it as a hobby, but they did get business from some local

## How to go

- ▶ **What:** Photographs by Richard Malogorski.
- ▶ **Where:** The Regional Artists Gallery at the Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park N.
- ▶ **When:** Through Feb. 2.
- ▶ **Hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.
- ▶ **Admission:** Free.
- ▶ **Information:** 223-5277, or visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org)

farmers. I bought a T-shirt that said, 'Duck Inn, Waddle Out,'" said Malogorski, who likes to talk to townspeople to capture the essence of certain locations and the stories behind them.

Many other panoramic views include a rodeo arena in Sydney, Iowa, junked 1940s-era cars in Wishek, N.D., unmarked graves near Lowry, S.D., and an old machine shop in Steele, N.D. He said the latter image took about 20 minutes using his No. 8 Cirkut rotating camera. He also happened upon Fred's Barber-shop in Carson, N.D. Preserved in a historical village, the shop has an old-fashioned hood hair dryer (reputed to be the first hair dryer in Grant County), ice-cream parlor chairs and cowboy hats hanging on a rack. For added interest, the mirrors

inside pick up the images of both camera and photographer.

"I have a pretty good idea of what is going to transmit well. When I see something interesting, immediately I start thinking about how I'm going to capture it. Many of them involve talking to a lot of people, owners of shops and so on," Malogorski said.

Getting inside buildings for the shot he wants can take asking around, and a little effort. A church he wanted to photograph near Elgin, N.D., was locked. However, there was a note in the door indicating where he could find the key. He followed the directions to the man's house, but had to wait an extra day to get it because the farmer had left for the county fair.

He particularly likes the simplicity of some old churches, and he was rewarded for his patience in retrieving the key. The ceiling of the German Lutheran church resembled the bottom of an old wooden sailing ship. The setting was very austere, with a narrow aisle between the pews. And sometimes he works hard to see the inside of a building, only to realize later that it won't work out, like the time he spotted a church in Arena, N.D.

"You know it was funny how I got into that church. Both the front and side doors were locked. But the basement foundation was caving in, so I crawled through a hole in the basement, and went up the stairs and opened the door. After all that I felt the interior of the church was too gone to be a good photographic

subject. But the exterior was great," Malogorski said.

The exterior of the large-format print shows the small church building in disrepair and the shadows of the hard-earned open door in front, a sharp contrast to the chipped white paint. To the left is an old wooden railroad car — to the right, a broken-down fence and small out-house. The winding ribbon of a country road can be seen in the distance.

More examples of his large-format photography can be seen in the skeleton of a cottonwood tree near Moroville, Kan., or the inner workings of a 19th century Roller Mill in Neligh, Neb.

"It's a great honor to have an exhibit at DAI. This gave me an opportunity to show a unifying theme of small town scenes; to have all my new work exhibited in one place," said Malogorski.

Since 1993 he has presented his work in 22 solo or group exhibitions in the greater Miami Valley. His prints can be found in collections from Olivia's Restaurant and the Kettering Medical Center to the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong or the U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar. He's showing additional photographs at the St. Clair Gallery downtown. A resident of Bath Twp. in Greene County, he spent two years at Wright State University in film studies. He works at a landscape design/home garden center in addition to his photographic endeavors.

▶ **Contact** free-lance arts writer Pamela Dillon at [pamdillon2@aol.com](mailto:pamdillon2@aol.com).