



Neil Blackwell

2010 DUC Stamp & Print

Neil Blackwell was born in London, England, and came to Canada in 1958. As a young boy in England, his artistic talents were already apparent. He won a scholarship to the Slade School of Art at London University, where his career as an artist began.

Blackwell's background trade was making pianos, but he always continued pursuing his passion for painting. He decided to make art his life's work in 1975 and has been enjoying life as a full-time artist ever since.

Blackwell's *The Meeting Place* was selected to join Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DUC) 2010 National Art Portfolio and was named DUC's 2010 Stamp and Print winner. This limited edition series is available only through DUC fundraising initiatives. The money raised through this program supports DUC's *Wetlands for Tomorrow* campaign.

Wetlands for Tomorrow is the largest conservation fundraising campaign in the history of North America. It spans three countries as DUC works alongside Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in the United States and Ducks Unlimited Mexico to conserve wetlands for waterfowl, other wildlife and people.



The Inspiration for *The Meeting Place*

Every spring, Blackwell watches a large variety of ducks and birds arrive back to their breeding and nesting grounds, but last year he saw something special.

"Last year was the first time I was able to capture photos of the magnificent American wigeon," Blackwell says.

Blackwell painted this scene with hope that they will meet again next year at this special wetland spot.

Additional work by Neil Blackwell

This is the third time Blackwell has been named DUC's Stamp and Print Winner, having won previously in 2000 and 2004.

