

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

May 12, 2015

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### **New Photography Exhibition by Wayne Levin to Open at NAS**

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Wayne Levin: Akule,” an exhibition featuring 16 photographs of akule fish. It opens July 27, 2015, and will remain on view through Jan. 8, 2016, at the National Academy of Sciences.

Imagine seeing what you think is a coral reef, only to realize that it is actually a massive school of fish. This is what happened to photographer Wayne Levin as he swam in Hawaii's Kealakekua Bay on his way to photograph dolphins. The fish he encountered were akule, the Hawaiian name for big-eyed scad. In the years that followed he developed a fascination with the beauty and synchronicity of these schools of akule and spent a decade photographing them.

Akule have been bountiful in Hawaii for centuries. Their dense schools form patterns, like unfurling scrolls, then suddenly contract into a vortex before unfurling again and moving on. In his introduction to *Akule* (2010, Editions Limited), a collection of Levin's photos, Thomas Farber describes a photo session: "What transpired was a dance, dialogue, or courtship of and with the akule....Sometimes, for instance, he faced away from them, then slowly turned, and instead of moving away the school would...come towards him. Or, as he advanced, the school would open, forming a tunnel for him. Entering, he'd be engulfed in thousands of fish."

Based in Hawaii, Wayne Levin has photographed numerous aspects of the underwater world: sea life, surfers, divers, swimmers, shipwrecks, seascapes, and aquariums. His photographs are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego; the Honolulu Museum of Art; and the Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia. His work has been published in *Aperture*, *American Photographer*, *Camera Arts*, *Day in the Life of Hawaii*, and *LensWork*. His books include *Through a Liquid Mirror* (1997, Editions Limited) and *Other Oceans* (2001, University of Hawaii Press).

“Wayne Levin: Akule” will be on exhibit at the NAS Building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required.

The **Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences** sponsors exhibitions, discussion forums, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. For more information, call 202-334-2436 or visit [www.cpnas.org](http://www.cpnas.org). The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

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**Images from the exhibition:**



Wayne Levin, *Pattern of Akule*, 2002/2015, archival pigment print, 17 x 25 inches



Wayne Levin, *Line of Akule*, 2001, gelatin silver print, 20 x 24 inches,



Wayne Levin, *Rainbow Runners Hunting Akule*, 2001/2015, archival pigment print, 17 x 22 inches



Wayne Levin, *Surrounded by Akule*, 2002, gelatin silver print, 16 x 20 inches

For print-quality images, contact Alana Quinn, 202-334-2415, [aquinn@nas.edu](mailto:aquinn@nas.edu)

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