

PETER WAITE: SOCIAL MEMORY, PAINTINGS 1987–2025

November 6, 2025–March 15, 2026

Peter Waite's (b. 1950) large-scale paintings of familiar sites across New England and historic locations throughout Europe investigate the cultural significance and transitional nature of public spaces. Rendered from the viewer's perspective and marked by an absence of human figures, these works convey a distinct psychological depth that lend the works a range of emotions. Waite captures the stillness of liminal spaces—such as train stations, passageways, and public parks—as a means of reflecting upon the progression of time, shifting social priorities, exploration of communal environments, and personal memory.

Waite's solo exhibition at the Wadsworth is also a homecoming. As a student at Hartford Art School in the 1960s, he remembers vividly his first visit to the museum. Years later, he matured his interest in museums while working in the exhibition design department. A New England native and long-time resident of central Connecticut, Waite has remained an active member of the contemporary art scene in the Hartford region for more than 40 years. Centered on the Wadsworth's three exceptional paintings, the exhibition includes loans from public and private collections as well as his latest work.

Related Programs

Exhibition Opening

Thursday, November 6, 2025

5pm opening, 6pm gallery talk ; followed by an 8pm screening of *Wings of Desire* (1987). Screened in conjunction with the exhibition, the film mirrors the artist's interest in space, memory, and presence.

Free admission during First Thursdays

Member Morning & Curator Talk | with Peter Waite and Laura Leonard

Friday, November 21, 2025 | 11am

Free for members

Film screenings | *Playtime*

Friday, December 26, 2025 | 2pm

Saturday, December 27, 2025 | 2pm

Sunday, December 28, 2025 | 2pm