



Blue Studio w/ Angel II, oil on canvas, 2017, 30x40

Wonderments — John Winslow

Help bring an artist's legacy to the screen.

<https://www.johnwinslow.com/>

Documentary and Artist Legacy Project

Proposal: April 02, 2026

Immediate Funding Need: \$30K by May 10, 2026

Media Policy Center | IRS 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Production Entity
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WONDERMENTS

A Documentary Film on the Life and Work of John Winslow

“He was such a tremendously skilled painter... he painted light, structure, and space with complete authority. He could portray a room like nobody else.”

— Ben Forgey, former Art Critic, *The Washington Post*

Project Overview

WONDERMENTS is a feature-length documentary (60–90 minutes) about the life and work of John Winslow (1938–2024) — a Washington D.C.-based painter whose work explored the meeting point between abstraction, architecture, and human experience.

For more than four decades, Winslow developed a deeply personal visual language that fused rigorous abstraction with lived reality. His paintings combine architectural structure, human figures, and layered spaces that evoke the movement of thought, memory, and imagination. Critics and collectors have consistently noted his rare ability to unite realism and abstraction in a way that feels both intellectual and deeply human. John called the process “*wonderment*”. *We have pluralized him.*

Winslow spent more than thirty years teaching painting and architectural rendering at The Catholic University of America, where he influenced generations of artists and students. He continued painting throughout his life, leaving behind hundreds of works that reveal a sustained commitment to craft, inquiry, and visual thought.

This film will explore Winslow’s artistic journey through interviews with family, collectors, critics, former students, and scholars, alongside the paintings themselves and the story of the creative partnership he shared with his wife, poet Rosemary Winslow.

Why Does This Film Matter Now?

We are living in a moment when technology can generate images instantly, yet questions about human creativity, authorship, and artistic meaning have become more urgent than ever.

John Winslow represents a generation of artists whose work emerged from discipline, philosophy, and sustained studio practice rather than speed or spectacle. His paintings ask viewers to slow down, to look carefully, and to engage with the deeper structures of perception and imagination.

At the same time, cultural institutions are increasingly recognizing the importance of preserving the legacies of artists whose influence was academic, intellectual, and regional rather than market-driven. Without documentation, these artistic histories can easily disappear. Many of John Winslow’s materials—artworks, recordings, and firsthand accounts—remain **scattered across private collections and family archives**.

WONDERMENTS aims to capture Winslow’s life, work, and ideas while those who knew him — family members, students, collectors, and critics — are still able to share their stories. This documentary is critical in ensuring these stories and archives are **professionally documented, preserved, and safeguarded** before they are lost.

The Project

The project will include:

- **Documentary Initiative:** A 60–90 minute documentary film designed for broadcast and festival distribution (i.e. PBS *American Masters* and/or Amazon Prime’s FRIDA).
- **Artist Archival Initiative:** The first and complete digital archive of Winslow’s artwork and materials.
- **Educational Initiative:** The development and creation of educational components for K-12/University art units, as well as an exploration in abstract art for universities and arts institutions.
- **Literary Material:** The development of a companion book written by Rosemary Winslow, widow of John Winslow.

Together, these elements will help preserve and share Winslow’s artistic legacy for future audiences.

Immediate Funding Need - \$30K by May 10, 2026

We are seeking \$30,000 in founding support to initiate the first phase of production for *WONDERMENTS*, with filming scheduled in Washington, D.C. in May 2026.

This initial funding will enable us to:

- Conduct **15+ filmed interviews** with family members, collectors, critics, and former students;
- Begin **digitization of rare family photographs and personal materials**, including historical documents central to understanding John Winslow's life and artistic development;
- **Preserve and transfer VHS recordings** and legacy video documenting Winslow's practice and career;
- Build the **first comprehensive digital timeline and historical archive** of Winslow's life and work.

Together, these efforts establish the foundation of both the documentary and the permanent archive—ensuring critical materials are preserved, organized, and accessible. A parallel **artist archival initiative** is in development, including expanded research into Marcella Comès Winslow, his mother and portrait painter of the United States Poet Laureate, further deepening the historical narrative of the Winslow family.

In addition, an **educational initiative** will create a sustainable extension of the project through literary publications, local and digital artist communities, and future support for emerging artists via grants and scholarships focused on traditional arts.

About the Media Policy Center

The project is being developed through Media Policy Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit production organization---ASHOKA-honored--- that has produced multiple PBS documentaries and award-winning cultural programs including:

- *And Thou Shall Honor* (2002) — a PBS broadcasted feature film about caregiving and the challenges caregivers face;
- *Backfired: When VW Lied to America* (2018) — an investigative feature documentary uncovering how VW knowingly faked emissions data;
- *Do No Harm: The Opioid Epidemic* (2018) — a TV mini series, narrated by Ed Harris, that examines the origins and devastation of the US opioid crisis.

The Media Policy Center's award-winning television and new media productions empower audiences to build and improve their communities. MPC provides online support and outreach tools to foster change. From environmental sustainability and health care to social justice and education, MPC is dedicated to leveraging media for positive social change.

About the Filmmaking Team

Dale Bell — Director / Executive Producer

Academy Award-winning producer of *WOODSTOCK* and recipient of multiple BAFTA, Emmy, Peabody, and Christopher Awards.

Dr. Rosemary Winslow — Co-Writer / Co-Executive Producer

A poet, scholar, and longtime professor of English and recipient of three Larry Neal Awards for Poetry and fellowships from the DC Commission on the Arts and the Vermont Studio Center. She has also received over 20 grants supporting the development of educators—from K-12 through the graduate level—across Washington, D.C. and four Maryland counties, advancing innovative approaches to teaching writing.

Ralph Herman — Editor / Producer

An award-winning documentary editor and veteran broadcast professional whose career spans CBS News, PBS, HBO, and independent productions, bringing decades of experience in storytelling, post-production, and documentary editing.

Betsie Garcia — Producer

An independent producer and marketing strategist passionate about championing stories based on local history

Dominik Yoder — Composer

An internationally recognized concert pianist and first prize winner of the 2025 Beverly Hills National Audition and the 2025 New York Concert Guild Competition.

A *board of advisors* will be assembled to provide strategic vision, support additional funding efforts, expand outreach, strengthen connectivity, and ensure the project’s accuracy.

Project Budget

The total estimated budget for WONDERMENTS is \$450,000, to support production, editing, music composition, and distribution over approximately 18 months.

Funding will be pursued through:

- Individual supporters
- Foundation grants
- Institutional partnerships
- Cultural organizations and educational institutions

How to Support the Project

WONDERMENTS is being produced through Media Policy Center, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions made through the Media Policy Center are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Ways to Give:

GoFundMe

Link: <https://gofund.me/39b2d31ea>

Or search for *Fund Trip #1: DC Filming for Winslow Doc*

Bank Transfer / Zelle

Send contributions to:

mpc@mediapolicycenter.org

Check

Checks may be made payable to:

Media Policy Center
1434 18th Street - FRONT
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Please include “WONDERMENTS Documentary” in the payment memo to ensure proper designation.

For **major gifts, institutional support, or foundation grants**, or if you require documentation for tax or philanthropic purposes, please contact **Dale Bell** at dale@mediapolicycenter.org or by phone at (818) 398-4562.



If you are interested in supporting the project or learning more, we would be grateful to share the full budget, production plan, outreach strategy, details on joining the board of advisors, and additional materials.

Thank you for considering support for *WONDERMENTS* and the preservation of John Winslow’s artistic legacy.