

In the early 1970's when I was studying with Ansel Adams I was taught his technique called pre-visualization. I began making sketches of images that had come to my mind on a sketchpad and then would go into the field to make them become a reality. The interesting thing is, when I would go into the field to make the photograph, they always turned out better than I ever even dreamed of in the sketch. There was always a feeling of it being some kind of mystical experience.

In 1978 I was still using the sketch technique and one morning I woke up and I had a vision of "Room Service" in my mind. I said to my wife Susan we're going to New York City because I've got to take a photograph and it's called "Room Service". My friend Allen Harrill, who was the director of Aberbach Fine Art on Madison Avenue helped me secure a room at the Carlyle hotel which happened to be directly across the street from the gallery. When I checked in I came in with my Deardorf 4 x 5 , my tripod, and a lot of hope for what was about to happen. They showed us to our room and when the door opened and we walked to look out the window my view was a brick wall. I sat on the bed for a few minutes wondering how can I ever make this photograph happen and realized I needed to go down and talk to the front desk. How many people go to the front desk in a hotel and and ask for a room with a view? Haha! When at the front desk I told the manager you have to understand I need a room with a view because I've come to New York City to take a photograph and it's called "Room Service", he looked at me like I was a crazy man. I went on to explain that I take photographs and this is an image that I had a premonition of and his help would be most appreciated. He took a moment and said let me see what I can do. I was given a corner room with the railing that I had no idea it would be in my picture because it was not in my sketch.

That was 39 years ago when we took that trip. "Room Service" is now in many museums and collections around the country, but this spring I got an email that said "Hello from the Carlyle". When I opened the email it said that they were so pleased to see my photograph of "Room Service " and had no idea that it existed and wondered how in the world they never knew about it. I went on to tell them the story that I am now writing here and we had a nice chat ending with a beautiful large print of "Room Service" being made and shipped to the Carlyle Hotel where it now has a prominent place with the title and year taken, along with my name and website. For this I am very grateful to the Carlyle for finding me and for the miracle that occurred that day when I took this photograph.