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**MARIANA COOK, LAST PROTÉGÉ OF ANSEL ADAMS,
TO TALK ON “STONE WALLS: PERSONAL BOUNDARIES”**

Tuesday, July 31st ~ 5:30pm ~ Baylies Room, Old Whaling Church

Edgartown, MA – July 23, 2012 – The Museum invites you to explore stone walls from around the world with the last protégé of Ansel Adams and Vineyard author Mariana Cook.

Stone Walls: Personal Boundaries was conceived by Cook at her home on the Island the day before Thanksgiving in 2002. After 56 cows strayed through a crumbling section of the stone wall she shares with her neighbor, Cook studied the tumbled wall and was struck by its beauty. With that inspiration, she spent eight years traveling to farms, towns, and temples in Peru, Great Britain, Ireland, the Mediterranean, New England, and Kentucky in pursuit of dry stone walls.

The striking black-and-white photographs portray walls in landscape, walls in abstract form, and the return of rocks to nature. Cook is fascinated with the juxtaposition of stones and geometric composition, as well as with the resonance among walls of different cultures. The walls were photographed between 2002 and 2010 and were built as early as 3600 B.C.

Seven essays accompany the various photographs in the book. Among the noted writers of the essays are farmer, poet, essayist and author Wendell Berry; Colin Renfrew, British archaeologist and member of the House of Lords; and Thomas B. F. Cummins, Professor of Pre-Columbian and Colonial Art History, and Department Chair, History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University.

Work by Mariana Cook is included in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles; the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.; and the National Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, among others. Her previous publications include the acclaimed portrait books: *Fathers and Daughters*, *Mothers and Sons*, *Generations of Women*, *Couples*, *Faces of Science*, and *Mathematicians*.

Mariana Cook will speak on Tuesday, July 31st in the Baylies Room of the Old Whaling Church, 89 Main St. Edgartown, beginning at 5:30pm. Admission is \$8 for members, and \$12 for non-members. Books will be available for purchase and signing following the talk.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum is dedicated to furthering an interest in, experience of, and appreciation for the history and culture of the Island and its environs. The Museum is open year round, 10am to 4pm Monday through Saturday. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children 6 to 15 and free for children under the age of 6.