



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
September 6, 2011

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# AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

## Contemporary Photographs of the West

[Opens September 17 at Joslyn Art Museum](#)

(Omaha, NE) – The special exhibition *American Landscape: Contemporary Photographs of the West* presents work by fourteen photographers who have explored the geography, history, and culture of the West over the past three decades, including Barbara Bosworth, Peter de Lory, Joe Deal, Steve Fitch, Emmet Gowin, Eric Paddock, Mary Peck, Edward Ranney, Mark Ruwedel, Joni Sternbach, Martin Stupich, William Sutton, Terry Toedtemeier, and William Wylie. The exhibition opens at Joslyn Art Museum on September 17 and continues through January 8.

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*American Landscape: Contemporary Photographs of the West*

American photography underwent a profound shift in the 1970s. No longer able to reconcile the heroic vistas typified by Ansel Adams' views of the High Sierra with the realities of their contemporary surroundings, photographers began to acknowledge the urban and suburban landscape, recording its difficult failures as well as its day-to-day joys.

Since that time, a following generation of artists has created a direct and clear-eyed appraisal of the American West that incorporates the entire landscape – picturing not only its topography, but also the evidence of exploration, settlement, and development. Their work is not without the lyricism and elegance that has always characterized American landscape photography, but they are more likely to engage a local view – a highway crossing, the footprint of an abandoned factory, or the watershed of a river – than the distant and mythic horizon. Several of these artists have concentrated on the subtle terrain of the Great Plains – the “West” that settlers first knew after crossing the Missouri River. Depicting the landscape with a formal language that is often restrained and spare, these images also reveal the influence of the West's earliest photographers, who first described this territory in the 1860s and 1870s.

*American Landscape: Contemporary Photographs of the West* acknowledges our mark on the land and our place within it. The built environment – from nineteenth-century engineering projects to twentieth-

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## *American Landscape: Contemporary Photographs of the West*

century earthworks – is understood not as an intrusion, but as an equally important element of the landscape. But there is also the pleasure to be found in the late afternoon sun coursing across the prairie, or the graceful profile of a ridge seen through a car window. Together, these artists find a balance between our desire for wilderness and open space with the realities of the modern West and the complex legacy of our past.

### Exhibition Events & Programs

#### Curator Gallery Talks

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm: September 22, October 27, January 5

View the exhibition with Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art. Free with regular Museum admission.

#### Along the Elkhorn River: Understanding our Local Watershed

Saturday, October 1; 1–3 pm

Join Toby Jurovics and Professor Alan Kolok in a discussion about the Elkhorn River watershed. Speakers will address the natural and cultural history of the river and ecological studies taking place at the Elkhorn River Research Station. Following the discussion, Dr. Kolok will lead a tour of the research station for interested participants (space is limited for the optional tour; registration details at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org)). Free with regular Museum admission.

*This event is sponsored by Joslyn Art Museum, UNO – Service Learning Academy, and UNMC.*

#### Prints in Landscape: 3-Film Series

Tuesdays @ 7 pm, November 1, 8, 15

Film Streams, in partnership with Joslyn Art Museum, will present three films about the modern West. Each screening will be introduced by a curator, critic, or artist.

- November 1: *Rancho Deluxe*
- November 8: *Lone Star*
- November 15: *The Last Picture Show*

Regular Film Streams ticket prices. Visit [filmstreams.org](http://filmstreams.org).

#### Artist Panel Discussion

Sunday, November 13; 1–3 pm

Join Steve Fitch, Martin Stupich, and William Wylie as they discuss their photographs in the exhibition. Introduced and moderated by Joslyn Chief Curator Toby Jurovics, the afternoon will conclude with a gallery walkthrough with the artists. Free with regular Museum admission.

Pictured In This Release:

(PAGE 1 DETAIL) Martin Stupich, *Parker Dam, Colorado River, California and Arizona*, 1988, pigment ink jet print, courtesy of the artist

(PAGE 2) William Wylie, *Looking North, near Udall Natural Area*, 1996, gelatin silver print, courtesy of the artist



Joslyn Art Museum is a major regional resource for the collection, preservation, and interpretation of the visual arts. Dedicated to excellence and celebrating art in all its variety, the Museum maintains a collection of art historical significance, ranging from antiquity to the present, with special emphasis on 19th- and 20th-century European and American art. Through its collection, exhibitions, and education programs, Joslyn Art Museum seeks to foster appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.

The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster, Baron Foster of Thames Bank, as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, library, café, and shop.

[www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org) | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102

Museum Admission: \$8 adults; \$6 senior citizens (62+) and college students (with ID); \$5 ages 5-17; free for children four and younger and Joslyn members. The general public is admitted free on Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Group rates available for 10 or more with advance reservations. Call (402) 661-3833 or e-mail [groupsales@joslyn.org](mailto:groupsales@joslyn.org). Increased admission for some special exhibitions. Museum Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 am-4 pm; Sun, noon-4 pm; closed Mon and major holidays. Extended hours for some special exhibitions.