The Great West Illustrated
Celebrating 150 Years of the Union Pacific Railroad

Opens June 30 at Joslyn Art Museum

(Omaha, NE) – Joslyn Art Museum presents the exhibition The Great West Illustrated: Celebrating 150 Years of the Union Pacific Railroad, marking the Union Pacific Railroad’s milestone anniversary year. The exhibition is on view at Joslyn beginning June 30 and continuing through September 16.

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Exhibition Overview

In 1868, photographer Andrew J. Russell came west to document construction of the Union Pacific Railroad from Omaha to Promontory Summit, Utah. The results of this partnership were published the following year in an album, *The Great West Illustrated*, which is recognized as one of the most important photographic series of the nineteenth century. Its fifty images offer an account of the Union Pacific’s engineering skill as well as a pictorial record of a landscape that is both challenging and dramatic. In addition to prints from *The Great West Illustrated*, the exhibition will also feature other Russell photographs taken along the transcontinental line, many of which have never been published or exhibited. Together, these images offer a remarkable account of the western landscape at the moment of its transformation by what was arguably the greatest industrial accomplishment of the nineteenth century.

“A.J. Russell’s work is rare, scattered in public and private collections. We are proud of Union Pacific’s photographs, which make up the largest and most comprehensive collection in existence. Having served on Joslyn’s Board of Directors for many years, it’s great for me to see these two organizations connect to publicly share these images that are so important to Omaha’s history and future,” said Jim Young, chairman of Union Pacific.

Jack Becker, Ph.D., executive director and CEO of Joslyn, noted, “As a leading art museum, we were delighted when the opportunity arose to showcase the work of Andrew J. Russell, who is recognized as one of the most important photographers of the nineteenth century American landscape. In addition to the art historical significance of this exhibition, we are also pleased to partner with Union Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroad Museum, from whose collection these works are drawn. It is fulfilling when industry and the arts find common ground, and we are proud to present this exhibition in celebration of the long history of our nation’s largest rail company and one of Omaha’s most admired and respected institutions.”

*The Great West Illustrated*

With the support of Union Pacific, Russell made three trips west between 1868 and 1869, traveling with several cameras, a portable darkroom, and a supply of glass plates for making 10 x 13 inch wet-plate negatives. When the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads met at Promontory Point, Utah, on May 10, 1869, Russell photographed the occasion. Together, his images of the extraordinary achievement of spanning the West by rail captured the attention and imagination of citizens across the country. His photographs were used to advertise commercial enterprises, reproduced as engravings and lithographs in travel guides, and shown as slides during public lectures about the West.
Joslyn Collection Connections

*The Great West Illustrated* is a remarkable companion to Joslyn Art Museum's collection of watercolors by the Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, offering complementary visions by one of the first artists to encounter the trans-Missouri West and photography's early documentation of the developed landscape. Joslyn is noted for its comprehensive holdings of works by Bodmer, whose watercolors and prints follow his 1832-34 journey through the Missouri River frontier with the German naturalist Prince Maximilian of Wied. A selection of Bodmer's images are on view in the Museum's Art in America permanent collection galleries.

Also during the exhibition, Joslyn presents an installation of works by contemporary photographer Mark Ruwedel from his series *Westward*, which traces the routes of abandoned nineteenth-century rail lines. Documenting the first wave of industrial expansion into the western landscape, many of his images refer to Russell and *The Great West Illustrated*, highlighting the influence of his nineteenth-century predecessor.

More to See at Union Pacific Railroad Museum

Russell's photographs were also produced in stereo card format. A stereo card presents two nearly identical images, mounted side by side on cardboard. When viewed through a stereo viewer, they present a three-dimensional image. Union Pacific Railroad Museum owns 600 Russell stereo cards, a selection of which will be on view there during the time of the exhibition at Joslyn.

Exhibition Events & Programs

On Friday, June 29, Joslyn members will enjoy a preview of the exhibition, featuring a 6 pm introduction by Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's chief curator and Richard and Mary Holland Curator of American Western Art. The members event, which also features a second exhibition, *Contested Terrain: Painting the Modern Landscape*, is sponsored by Lamson, Dugan and Murray, LLP. Invitations will be mailed. To become a Joslyn member, visit www.joslyn.org or call (402) 661-3858.

Public events include:

- Two gallery talks by Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's chief curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art on Thursdays, July 19 and August 16, at 6:30 pm. The talks will include a second Joslyn exhibition — *Contested Terrain: Painting the Modern Landscape*. Free with regular Museum admission (discounted to $5 for all ages on Thursdays from 4-8 pm)

- A presentation by art historian Glenn Willumson, director of the graduate program in museum studies and professor of art history at the University of Florida, and photographer Mark Ruwedel on Saturday, September 8 at 1 pm. Willumson is the foremost expert on Russell's photography

- Railroad Days — Union Pacific's annual celebration of all things train and track — July 14 and 15. Joslyn is a venue this year in celebration of *The Great West Illustrated*. For details and admission information, visit www.omaharailroaddays.com.

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Joslyn Art Museum
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 nineteenth- and twentieth-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.

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. The general public is admitted free on Thursdays from 4–8 pm. All Union Pacific employees admitted free of charge during the run of the exhibition (valid employee I.D. required). Group rates available for 10 or more with advance reservations. Call (402) 661-3833 or e-mail groupsales@joslyn.org. Increased admission for some special exhibitions. Museum Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10 am–4 pm; Thurs, 10 am–8 pm; Sun, noon–4 pm; closed Mon and major holidays. Extended hours for some special exhibitions. www.joslyn.org; (402) 342-3300; 2200 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Union Pacific Railroad Museum
Visitors to the Union Pacific Railroad Museum journey through more than 150 years of American history while viewing one of the oldest corporate collections in the nation. Housed in an historic Carnegie Library building in Council Bluffs, Iowa, visitors discover an extensive compilation of artifacts, photographs, documents, and equipment from one of our nation’s most ambitious endeavors — constructing the transcontinental railroad and settling the West, simultaneously chronicled in museum exhibits. The Union Pacific Railroad Museum also promotes a sense of connectedness shared by generations of people whose personal and family histories have been touched by the railroad.

Among the most popular Museum exhibits are "America Travels by Rail," which celebrates the height of passenger travel; the Lincoln Collection, featuring artifacts from President Abraham Lincoln’s rail car and funeral; and the
technology and innovation that sustain Union Pacific as a railroad industry leader. On May 12, the Museum will open its newest exhibit, “Building America.” This state-of-the-art, million-dollar exhibit, completely transforms an entire floor of the museum. Sharing the experience of building the Transcontinental Railroad, the new presentation offers immersive design and cutting-edge technology. Visitors will be transported to the 1860s as they learn about frontier life, the monumental work of constructing the railroad, and the communities that were created along its route.

Museum Admission: Free. Museum Hours: Tues–Sat, 10 am–4 pm; closed Sun and Mon. www.uprrmuseum.org; (712) 329–8307; 200 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Union Pacific

It was 150 years ago that Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act of July 1, 1862, creating the original Union Pacific. One of America’s iconic companies, today, Union Pacific Railroad is the principal operating company of Union Pacific Corporation (NYSE: UNP), linking 23 states in the western two-thirds of the country by rail and providing freight solutions and logistics expertise to the global supply chain. From 2000 through 2011, Union Pacific spent more than $31 billion on its network and operations, making needed investments in America’s infrastructure and enhancing its ability to provide safe, reliable, fuel-efficient and environmentally responsible freight transportation. Union Pacific’s diversified business mix includes Agricultural Products, Automotive, Chemicals, Energy, Industrial Products and Intermodal. The railroad serves many of the fastest-growing U.S. population centers and emphasizes excellent customer service. Union Pacific operates competitive routes from all major West Coast and Gulf Coast ports to eastern gateways, connects with Canada’s rail systems and is the only railroad serving all six major Mexico gateways.