

# VIRTUAL CONVERSATIONS 2021

An online conference by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

April 10, 2021



**CRP&A** | CENTER FOR RAILROAD  
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

1930 Monroe Street, Suite 301, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711  
608-251-5785 | [info@railphoto-art.org](mailto:info@railphoto-art.org) | [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org)

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**Front Cover:**  
**Erik C. Lindgren**  
**"Shop Time"**  
Oil on board  
16x30 inches, 2009  
Private Collection: Al Schleyer

**Denver & Rio Grande Western K28  
2-8-2 473 waiting in the Durango  
roundhouse before the days work in  
a full inspection.**

## Conference Volunteers

Jeff Brouws, Alexander Craghead, Justin Franz, Bon French,  
Todd Halamka, Kevin P. Keefe, Jeff Mast, Ken Rehor, Brian Schmidt,  
Otto Vondrak

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# Schedule

## Saturday, April 10, live sessions on Cisco Webex (all times are U.S. Central)

- 9:30 A.M. *Webex meeting opens*, Attendees' show on repeat
- 10:00 A.M. **Welcome and Introduction**, Scott Lothes
- 10:15 A.M. **CRP&A Collections Update**, Adrienne Evans
- 10:30 A.M. **The Story Behind the Book: *Logomotive: Railroad Graphics and the American Dream***, Jonathan Glancey & Ian Logan
- 11:15 A.M. **Two Cities, Two Scenes, and Two Minds**, Yoichi Uzeki
- 12:00 P.M. *Break (East/Central U.S. Lunch)*, Attendees' show on repeat
- 12:45 P.M. **20 Years of Images for the Nation's Largest Transportation System**, Patrick Cashin
- 1:30 P.M. **Outside to Insider**, Kevin Tomasic  
**Journey to Thurmond**, Kevin Scanlon
- 2:15 P.M. *Break (West U.S. Lunch)*, Attendees' show on repeat
- 3:00 P.M. **Illuminating the Railroad Landscape**, William Gill
- 3:45 P.M. **'Let's See Some Trains' – The Photography of John F. Bjorklund**, Jeff Mast
- 4:30 P.M. **My Journey with Art and the Steel Rail**, Erik C. Lindgren
- 5:15 P.M. *Conclusion*

# Virtual Conversations 2021 Patrons

The Center extends special gratitude to the **Tom E. Dailey Foundation**, and to **Michael Schmidt**, whose grants funded our subscription to the Webex Events platform, which made all of our 2020-2021 online events possible. **Thank you.**

**We are also grateful to our Virtual Conversations 2021 Patrons whose gifts support today's programming and upcoming online events. Thank you.**

*\* Patrons noted according to gifts made by April 8, 2021*

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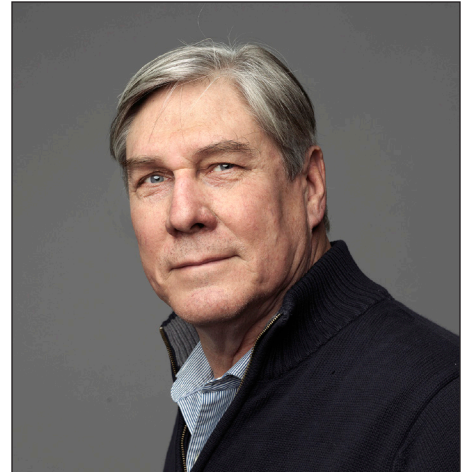
## Presenters

### 20 Years of Images for the Nation's Largest Transportation System, 12:45 P.M.

**Patrick CASHIN, New York City, New York**

Patrick Cashin shares a representation of the work he has produced for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) over the past two decades, from New York City's subway, commuter railroads, major construction projects like the building of the Second Avenue Subway, to portraits of the people who make it all happen. From the tops of the bridges, to the depths of the subway system, his presentation offers a wide range of images showcasing the MTA's commuter system and the nine million people it serves daily.

Cashin has been the photographer for the New York State MTA for the past twenty years. His interest in photography began while serving in the U.S. Navy. Following military service, he worked in *Newsweek* magazine's photo lab for sixteen years. During that time, he traveled around the world as a photographer for the Naval Reserve and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard until retiring from military service in 2012. Along the way his work was recognized in the CRP&A's awards programs for 2004 and 2011.



### Illuminating the Railroad Landscape, 3:00 P.M.

**William GILL, Troy, New York**

William Gill's presentation offers a view into the process of using flashes to light night scenes with the goal of capturing the experience of watching a train pass. As he has attempted to light larger scenes, Gill has developed a set of tools for transporting and arranging his camera and lights to achieve cinematic lighting without a large crew. He shares images that represent his vision of night as well as some behind-the-scenes images.

By day, Gill works as the Director of Web Design for the University at Albany, and he photographs at night. His undergraduate degree in information technology and art provided the technical foundation for building and lighting outdoor studios along the tracks. He lives with his wife, Stephanie, and their dog, Woodrow, in a row house they restored a few blocks from the tracks in Troy, New York.





## The Story Behind the Book: *Logomotive: Railroad Graphics and the American Dream*, 10:30 A.M.

Jonathan GLANCEY, London, United Kingdom  
Ian LOGAN, London, United Kingdom

Ian Logan explains how his fifty-year love affair with trains has culminated in a book celebrating every aspect of American railroad iconography and design. Jonathan Glancey, playing fireman to Logan's engineer, reveals his own fascination with trains, their looks, their sounds and their habitat – stations, freight yards, viaducts, distant hills, and engine sheds. Together Logan and Glancey uncover the history of the railroads and how their services were created and sold to the public over the generations.

The journalist, author, and broadcaster Jonathan Glancey is a trailblazing commentator on architecture and design, writing about buildings, cars, planes, and trains with deep knowledge and infectious enthusiasm. The architecture and design editor of *The Guardian* from 1997 to 2012, he now reports on those topics for *The Telegraph* and newspapers and magazines worldwide. His obsession with trains began in childhood and has inspired four books, *The Train: A Photographic History* (2004), *John Betjeman on Trains* (2006), *Tornado: 21st Century Steam* (2010) and *Giants of Steam* (2012), in addition to the Channel 4 mini-series *Small Railway Journeys* (2006). His other books include *Twentieth Century Architecture* (1998), *Lost Buildings* (2008), *Nagaland: A Journey to India's Forgotten Frontier* (2011), and *What's So Great About the Eiffel Tower?* (2017). He has written and presented numerous TV documentaries including, for the BBC, *The Genius of Design* (2010), *Design Icons* (2016) and *Concorde: A Supersonic Story* (2017).



Ian Logan was at the center of the design revolution that marked the end of post-war austerity. He studied at the Central School of Art and Design in London (now Central St. Martins), and won a scholarship to the Konstfack, Stockholm's University of Arts, Crafts, and Design. In the early 1960s he joined JRM Design, a fabric print company in London's East End. Logan's passion for vintage railroad Americana was rooted in a Fifties and Sixties childhood attuned to the sounds of folk, skiffle, and blues under the influence of his uncle, Ewan MacColl.

## **My Journey with Art and the Steel Rail, 4:30 P.M.**

**Erik C. LINDGREN, Arvada, Colorado**

Erik Lindgren presents about his two artistic mediums—oil painting and photography—and discusses how those two formats blend in his overall passion for railroading.

Lindgren captures the history and the power of automobiles, locomotives, and various images through color, graphic patterns, and design. An avid train enthusiast since childhood, he demonstrates in his paintings his attention to detail and authenticity that comes with being a student of history. Lindgren's camera captures trains in an effort to obtain reference for his artwork. A graduate of Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design in Denver, Lindgren has illustrated for authors, automotive clubs, and many magazines, and has had several featured covers for *The Narrow Gauge & Short-line Gazette*, as well as for corporate and private collectors.



## **'Let's See Some Trains' – The Photography of John F. Bjorklund, 3:45 P.M.**

**Jeff MAST, Canton, Michigan**

John Bjorklund (1939–2005) photographed railroads throughout the United States and Canada for most of his adult life. His collection of 55,000 color slides powerfully represents the “Kodachrome Era” of railroad photography. His widow, Rose, donated it to the Center in 2011. Bjorklund spent most of his career in Detroit with the Ford Motor Company. He met Jeff Mast through local railfan gatherings, and the two frequently traveled and photographed together.

Mast was born in Detroit and has spent his career in the city's metro area working in municipal civil engineering. He last presented together with Michael R. Valentine at Conversations 2015 with a program called “Journey into Photo Charters.” An avid photographer with awards for his photography, Mast has been photographing railroads for more than fifty years and has authored numerous articles in the railroad press with his photography also appearing in many magazines and books.







### **Journey to Thurmond, 1:30 P.M.**

#### **Kevin SCANLON, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Kevin Scanlon's presentation explores his thirty-six-year relationship with the town of Thurmond, West Virginia. He made seventy-two visits there during that time and has witnessed the transformation from a working railroad town to a static center for visitors to the New River Gorge National River. A wealth of good stories are associated with Thurmond, and Kevin will share some of his favorites.

Scanlon has spent the last fifty years documenting heavy industry and railroads across the country. He is drawn to subjects such as steel mills, the coalfields of southern West Virginia, and Great Lakes freighters. His photographs have been displayed in four solo gallery exhibits, and nine other exhibits, and they have also appeared in various books and magazines and on the covers of the literary journal *Paper Street*. Kevin lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Dory Adams. He is recently retired and spends much of his time volunteering at historic sites. In addition to doing preservation work at the Carrie Blast Furnaces and Rivers of Steel archives, he is also involved with the restoration of the East Broad Top Railroad shops in Rockhill Furnace, Pennsylvania.



### **Outside to Insider, 1:30 P.M.**

#### **Kevin TOMASIC, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Kevin N. Tomasic describes his journey from a railroad fan outsider looking at the steel industry from trackside to becoming an insider, through his work as a furnace estimator, by getting into the facilities and seeing what they were really like.

Tomasic has been an industrial furnace estimator and project manager for over thirty years, and he is the proud father to two grown sons. He lives in Pittsburgh's Mt. Troy neighborhood overlooking the Allegheny River and the old B&O Pittsburgh and Western main line. Railroads and industry are his favorite pastimes, along with playing with any dog he might happen to meet.



## Two Cities, Two Scenes, and Two Minds, 11:15 A.M.

### Yoichi UZEKI, Tokyo, Japan

Yoichi Uzeki's presentation discusses the differences and similarities in two different cities, NYC and Tokyo; two different scenes, urban railroads and rural railroads; and two different minds, photographer and composer/jazz pianist.

A native of Tokyo, Yoichi Uzeki is a pianist, composer, and arranger who received his bachelor's degree at Temple University and his master's degree and the Sir Roland Hanna Award from Queens College, City University of New York. Uzeki started seriously taking railroad photographs after he opened his Instagram account on July 31, 2015. Since then, he has pursued railroad photography in New York City, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Chicago, and all over Japan.





## Images from Conference Presenters



Above: Northbound under the namesake mountain of Castle Rock, Colorado a Union Pacific manifest train is at track speed rolling into the last moments of a glowing November sunset. Erik Lindgren

Below: EMD GP35 locomotives at Hobart Yard in Los Angeles, California. Ian Logan





Above: A drizzly April morning with an eastbound coal train in Thurmond, West Virginia. Kevin Scanlon

Below: A view inside the Sharon Steel mill in Sharon, Pennsylvania. Kevin Tomasic





Above: Track crew workers make adjustments for an MTA Metro-North line. Patrick Cashin

Below: Chicago & North Western engine no. 217 leads a northbound freight towards Glenville, Minnesota, on October 5, 1979. John F. Bjorklund, from the presentation by Jeff Mast





Above: A sunset shot of the Tokaido Shinkansen in Tokyo, Japan, with Mt. Fuji and Musashi Kosugi in the background. Yoichi Uzeki

Below: A holiday train on the Valley Railroad (Essex Steam Train) runs north along the tidal waters of the Connecticut River. The scene is illuminated from lights in the marsh behind the train. The image was taken from a canoe. William Gill

# All-Time Conference Presenters

**February 22, 2003**

**Lake Forest College**

- John Gruber
- Don Horn
- David Plowden
- Brian Solomon
- Matt Van Hattem

**March 20, 2004**

**Lake Forest College**

- Mark Hemphill
- Joel Jensen
- Anne M. Lyden
- Bill Middleton
- Mel Patrick
- David Plowden and John Gruber

**March 19–20, 2005**

**Lake Forest College**

- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Garver
- Robert Harr
- Sayre Kos
- Michael R. Valentine
- Jim Wrinn

**March 25, 2006**

**Marquette University**

- Jeff Brouws
- Chris Burger
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Sayre Kos
- Greg McDonnell
- Gil Reid
- Michael R. Valentine

**March 24, 2007**

**Lake Forest College**

- Steve Barry
- Simpson Kalisher
- Sayre Kos
- Miško Kranjec
- John Roskoski
- Jim Shaughnessy
- Walter E. Zullig, Jr.

**April 12, 2008**

**Lake Forest College**

- Jeff Brouws
- Victor Hand and Don Phillips
- Don Horn
- Scott Lothes
- David Plowden
- Tony Reeve

**April 17–19, 2009**

**Lake Forest College**

- Mark Hemphill
- Kevin P. Keefe and John B. Corns
- Stuart Klipper
- Scott Lothes, panel with Steve Barry, Mike Schafer, and Matt Van Hattem
- Kelly Lynch
- Kevin Scanlon
- Don Sims

**April 23–25, 2010**

**Lake Forest College**

- Frank Barry
- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Jeff Brouws
- Jim Brown
- Ian Kennedy
- Linda Niemann and Joel Jensen
- David Plowden
- Alex Ramos

**April 15–17, 2011**

**Lake Forest College**

- Lewis Ableidinger
- Lina Bertucci
- John Gruber
- Olaf Haensch
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Stan Kistler
- Joe McMillan
- Gordon Osmundson
- Karl Zimmermann

**April 13–15, 2012**

**Lake Forest College**

- Bill Botkin
- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Fawell
- Christian Goepel
- Drake Hokanson
- Joel Jensen
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Henry Posner III
- Chris Starnes

**April 12–14, 2013**

**Lake Forest College**

- Wes Carr
- Pablo Delano
- Michael Froio
- Matthew Kierstead
- Cate Kratville
- Mitch Markovitz
- Tony Reeve
- Casey Thomason
- Steve VanDenburgh
- Jim Wrinn, panel with Steve Barry, Alexander Benjamin Craghead, Marc Entze, Don Phillips, and Matt Van Hattem

**May 16–18, 2014**

**Lake Forest College, Chicago History Museum**

- Jeff Brouws
- Mike Danneman and Ron Flanary
- Travis Dewitz
- John Gruber
- Victor Hand
- Kevin Keefe
- Blair Kooistra
- Kathi Kube
- Mel Patrick
- Glenn Willumson

**April 10–12, 2015**

**Lake Forest College**

- Diane Bacha, with Ron Flanary, Don Hofshommer, Joel Jensen, Don Phillips, Jim Wrinn
- Ed Bartholomew
- Ted Benson, Dick Dorn, Dale Sanders, and Dave Stanley
- Justin Franz
- David Kahler
- J. Parker Lamb
- Jeff Mast and Michael R. Valentine
- Peter Mosse
- Bill Stewart
- James Swensen
- Axel Zwingenberger

**April 8–10, 2016**

**Lake Forest College**

- Steve Barry
- Wendy Burton and Kevin P. Keefe
- Charlie Castner and Ron Flanary
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Todd Halamka
- Ronald C. Hill
- Emily Moser
- Steve Patterson
- Tony Reeve
- John Sanderson
- Alan Shaw
- J. Craig Thorpe

**October 29, 2016**

**University of Connecticut**

- Mark Aldrich
- Robert Joseph Belletzkic
- Victor Hand
- Matt Kierstead
- Shaun O'Boyle
- Jim Shaughnessy
- J.W. Swanberg

**April 28–30, 2017**

**Lake Forest College**

- Drayton Blackgrove
- Katherine Botkin
- Jean Bublely and James J. Reisdorff
- Alexander Benjamin Craghead
- Dan Cupper
- Nicholas Fry
- Eric E. Hirsimaki
- John P. Kelly
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Dennis Livesey
- Alan Miller
- Adam Normandin
- David Styffe
- Paul Wertico with David Cain and John Moulder

**April 13–15, 2018**

**Lake Forest College**

- Jim Wrinn
- McNair Evans
- John Austin
- George Hiotis
- Bill Stewart
- Robin Coombes
- Kevin P. Keefe and Scott Lothes
- Alan Furler with Victor Hand
- Robert Gould and Matt Kierstead



**September 22, 2018  
California State  
Railroad Museum**

- Ted Benson  
and Tom Taylor
- Shirley Burman
- John Gruber and  
John Ryan
- Richard Koenig
- John Signor
- J. Craig Thorpe

**March 29-30, 2019  
Brigham Young  
University Museum  
of Art**

- Alexander Craghead
- Dan Davis
- Barre Fong
- Justin Franz
- Victor Hand
- Drake Hokanson
- Christine  
Hult-Lewis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Ashlee Whitaker
- Additional  
panelists, Kevin P.  
Keefe and James  
Swensen

**Sept. 13-15, 2019  
Lake Forest College**

- Ben Bachman
- Gil Bennett
- Jennifer Bodine
- Barre Fong
- John Free
- Oren Helbok
- Charlie Hunter
- Ron Perisho
- Eric Williams

**April 18, 2020  
Virtual Conversations,  
Cisco Webex**

- Gil Bennett
- Travis Dewitz &  
Todd Halamka
- Fred Frailey &  
Kevin P. Keefe
- Justin Franz
- Oren Helbok &  
George Hiotis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Dennis Livesey
- Scott Lothes
- Ken Rehor
- Camron Settlemier

**September 19, 2020  
Virtual Conversations:  
Fall Edition,  
Cisco Webex**

- Apurva Bahadur
- Darryl Bond
- Frederick Manfred  
Simon
- Laura Smith
- Rolf Stumpf &  
Mike Valentine
- Roger Watt

**Next conferences:**  
• Fall 2021 TBD



CRP&A board member Michael P. Schmidt introduces a presenter at Conversations 2019.

Attendees enjoy lunch in Calvin Durand Hall at Conversations 2019, hosted at Lake Forest College, Illinois. Photographs by Henry A. Koshollek





# CRP&A Railroad Heritage Visual Archive



A BNSF Railway northbound passes Union Pacific Railroad locomotive no. 6760 entering Caballo loadout spur in Gillette, Wyoming, in August 2005. Photograph by J. Parker Lamb, collection of the Center, Lamb-03-043-12

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art's Railroad Heritage Visual Archive contains fifty-four discrete collections which contain approximately 460,000 images created between the 1880s and the present. International in scope, our collections depict railroad equipment, operations, passengers, laborers, and environments in more than twenty-five countries. While we do collect 2D visual materials in various mediums, photographic images make up the bulk of our holdings. Artists represented in our collections include both talented hobbyists and vernacular photographers as well as celebrated luminaries of the field. Collectively, the scope of their work extends beyond the controlled views offered by the railroad industry to present a holistic and compelling story of a technology that's central to historical narratives across the globe. Furthermore, over the course of the twentieth century, railroad enthusiasts have formed

a community, centered on photography, with its own distinct publications, lingo, and visual culture. Our collections document the development of this subculture throughout the last 100 years.

Archival work on the collections occurs daily in the CRP&A's offices in Madison, Wisconsin. Archivist Adrienne Evans heads a collections team of six, which includes graduate student interns from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as well as contract archivists and collections assistants. The CRP&A frequently adds new accessions to our permanent collections. All potential donations are reviewed and approved by the Center's Board of Directors before they are added to the archive. You can learn more about our donations process as well as our Collection Management Policy on our website: [railphoto-art.org/collections/](http://railphoto-art.org/collections/)



# Traveling Exhibitions



*After Promontory* at the Winslow Arts Trust in Winslow, Arizona. Photograph by Daniel Lutzick

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art creates partnerships with photographers and museums to bring multiple forms of beautiful and significant railroad art to venues across the country. Stemming from a core focus to preserve and present significant images of railroading, our traveling exhibitions include both solo and group shows that span the history of railroading in the United States and beyond.

Several of our shows have continued to tour the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current venues may have limited hours, and we encourage those planning to visit to get in touch with each location and review their safety policies and protocols. Please also know that all dates are subject to change. Learn more about our traveling exhibitions on our website: [railphoto-art.org/exhibits/](http://railphoto-art.org/exhibits/)

## Current

*After Promontory: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Transcontinental Railroading*

- Redwood City, California: San Mateo County History Museum, through May 2021
- Winslow, Arizona: Winslow Arts Trust, January 22, 2021 to January 23, 2022

*Requiem for Steam: The Railroad Photographs of David Plowden*, Naples, Florida: Naples Depot Museum, January 14 to April 16, 2021

## Upcoming

*Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy*

- Collierville, Tennessee: The Morton Museum of Collierville History, February 21 to June 1, 2022
- Golden, Colorado: Colorado Railroad Museum, January to December 2023

*The Railroad and the Art of Place: Photography by David Kahler*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Grohmann Museum, September 10 to December 19, 2021

*Railroaders: Jack Delano's Homefront Photography*, Peoria, Illinois: Peoria Riverfront Museum, Fall 2021

*Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography*, Essex, Connecticut: Oliver O. Jensen Gallery at the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, schedule to be determined.

# The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology



THE RAILROAD AND THE ART OF PLACE AN ANTHOLOGY

In *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology*, a team of thirty contemporary and historical photographers—whose work is displayed across eighteen portfolios—visually contemplate the visible and philosophical imprint of the railroad on the American landscape. Combined with lucid, literary essays by Kevin P. Keefe, former editor of *Trains* magazine; noted transportation historian Alexander B. Craghead; industrial historian Matt Kierstead; and the late Michael Flanagan (author of *Stations: An Imaginary Journey*), the book, conceived by David Kahler, is sure to set a new benchmark in the field of railroad photography and transportation studies.

Produced to the highest standards and featuring 230 color and black-and-white photographs, this deluxe 372-page book is printed on heavy stock and portrays a storied industrial culture in an entirely new context. *Generously funded by the Kahler Family Charitable Fund.*

\$60 plus \$5 for domestic shipping, hardcover, 11×11 inches, 372 pages, 230 photographs

We are currently accepting preorders for shipping in September 2021.

Preorder at [railphoto-art.org/books/](http://railphoto-art.org/books/)

*International shipping is available; please inquire by email at [info@railphoto-art.org](mailto:info@railphoto-art.org)*

# Online Programming



*Visitor*, 2018, oil & acrylic on canvas, 44 x 96 inches. Adam Normandin

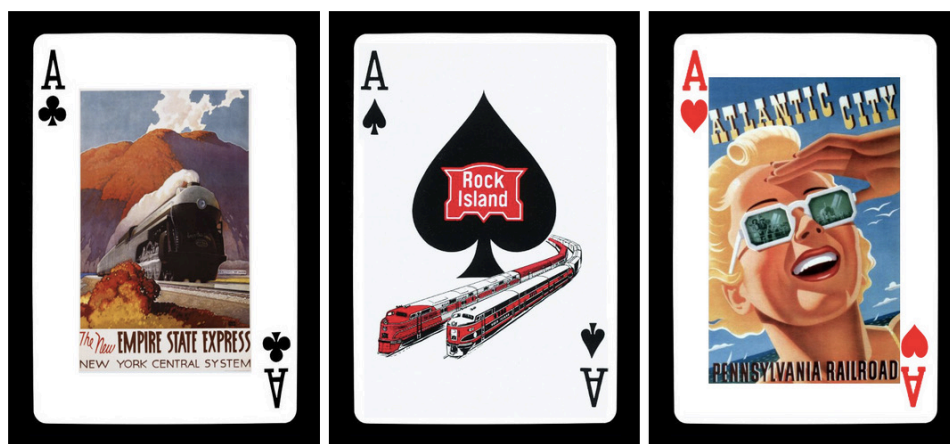
Throughout 2020 and 2021 the CRP&A has planned and presented a wide variety of online programming to bring more content to our membership and to reach new audiences. All past programs are available for viewing on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/railphotoart](https://youtube.com/railphotoart). Keep up-to-date with all of our programming via our website, email blasts, and social media channels.

## List of Past Programs

- [Beebe and Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy](#), presented by Mel Patrick and John Ryan
- [The Art of Dining on Rails](#), presented by Jay W. Christopher and Anne Lapinski
- [The Iron Road to the Deep North: Japanese Railways of Hokkaido, Then and Now](#), presented by Scott Lothes
- [Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography](#), presented by Kevin Keefe and Scott Lothes
- [The Railroad and the Art of Place](#), presented by David Kahler
- [Conversations about Ted Rose](#), presented by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art and the Colorado Railroad Museum
- [Virtual Oktoberfest: Milwaukee's Beer Line](#), presented by John Kelly
- [Virtual Launch Party For Our New Book: The Railroad Photography of Donald W. Furler](#), presented by Scott Lothes
- [Following the Golden Spike: Time, Place, and Change Along the First Transcontinental Railroad](#), presented by Drake Hokanson
- [An Evening With The Winners of the 2020 John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program: John Troxler and Steven Chen](#)
- [In The Studio With Adam Normandin: Living With Trains And Life With Art](#)
- [CRP&A Archives and Preservation Q&A](#), presented by Adrienne Evans



# Three-of-a-Kind: 2021 John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program



**The 2021 John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program** asks photographers to submit a set of three digital images that thematically tell a story capturing a unique aspect of railroading. These three images will be judged as a single submission. Photographers may submit up to two sets of three images.

There are no time frame limitations, digital manipulation of the images is permitted but not required, color and black & white images are acceptable as determined by the artist.

**Submission deadline:** May 1, 2021

**Awards notification:** August 1, 2021

## **Applicants must submit:**

- Up to two image sets, must include location, date, and basic caption information
- Name
- Mailing Address
- Email Address
- Phone number

Images should be submitted as high-resolution jpegs with a pixel dimension of at least 3000 on one side. Electronic submissions only. No watermarks. Files can be sent via email, Dropbox, WeTransfer, etc.

The Center reserves the right to retain electronic copies for future publication, use on our website, Facebook and other social media, or for public exhibition. In all cases, the photographer retains copyright to the image.

## **Prizes**

First place, \$750

Second place, \$500

Third place, \$250

Judges Also Liked, one-year subscription to *Railroad Heritage*

## **About the Program**

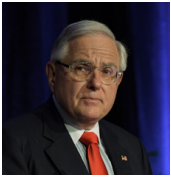
The John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program is devoted exclusively to contemporary railroad photography and attracts hundreds of entrants annually from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

John Gruber was a photography and preservation activist in the railroad community from 1960 to 2008. His own photography was published widely, especially in *Trains* magazine. In 1994, the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society presented Gruber with its Fred A. and Jane R. Stindt Photography Award. From 1995 to 1999, Gruber edited *Vintage Rails*. In 1997 his intense interest in both photography and preservation, and his concern about the welfare and longevity of amateur and professional photographers' work, led him to organize the founding of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art.

Learn more: [railphoto-art.org/three-of-a-kind-awards/](http://railphoto-art.org/three-of-a-kind-awards/)  
Please send all submissions to [award@railphoto-art.org](mailto:award@railphoto-art.org)

*Disclaimer: Trespassing along railroad rights-of-ways is illegal and the leading cause of rail-related deaths in the United States. The CRP&A discourages trespassing for this contest and retains the right to disqualify any photographs deemed dangerous in content.*

# Directors, Officers, and Staff



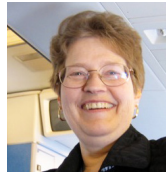
**Ronald L. Batory**, Santa Fe, New Mexico, just retired as the administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration. His prior career spanned forty-five years in the railroad industry as president of The Belt Railway Company of Chicago and president and chief operating officer of Conrail.



**Todd Halamka**, Western Springs, Illinois, is a practicing architect and founder of Todd Halamka + Partners in downtown Chicago. His focus on railroad photography began in 2011, combining his lifelong love of trains and the outdoors with his fascination for image making.



**Jeff Brouws**, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of nineteenth and twentieth century photography and a broad background in publishing, with seven photography books to his credit. His photographs can be found in numerous public and private collections.



**Nona Hill** (Treasurer), Madison, Wisconsin, and Clark Johnson, her husband, managed High Iron Travel, operator of the *Caritas*, the most widely traveled private car in America. She helps lead multiple passenger rail advocacy groups in Wisconsin.



**Norman Carlson**, Lake Forest, Illinois, spent thirty-four years with Arthur Anderson where he led the transportation industry practice for eleven years. He is president of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society and managing editor of its publication *First & Fastest*.



**David Kahler** (Vice-Chair), Pittsboro, North Carolina, practiced architecture for more than thirty years and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is active as a consultant and advisor, and he authored *The Railroad and the Art of Place*.



**Adrienne Evans** (Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. She worked at History Colorado for two years before coming to the Center in 2017.



**Kevin P. Keefe**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recently retired as vice-president-editorial for Kalmbach Publishing Co. He served as editor of *Trains* from 1992 to 2000. As a student at Michigan State, he worked on Pere Marquette steam locomotive no. 1225, and he later authored a book about it.



**Betsy Fahlman**, Tempe, Arizona, is a professor of art history at Arizona State University. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware and specializes in American Art, with interests in public art, American modernism, the New Deal and industrial archaeology.



**Natalie Krecek** (Archives Assistant), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2018 as an intern and was promoted to archives assistant in 2019. She received a BA degree in anthropology from North Central College in 2017. Her past work experience includes an internship at Chicago's Field Museum.



**Justin Franz**, Whitefish, Montana, has a degree from the University of Montana's School of Journalism, and is the associate editor of *Railfan & Railroad* magazine. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Atlas Obscura*, and many more.



**Valerie Lines** (Archives Intern), Madison, Wisconsin, is currently enrolled in UW-Madison's Library and Information Studies graduate program, and enjoys fiber arts, performing music, and sunshine. She currently processes the John Gruber Collection's color slides at the Center.



**T. Bondurant French** (Chair), Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the executive chairman of Adams Street Partners, one of the largest and oldest managers of private equity investment in the world. A lifelong rail enthusiast, Bon has photographed some 700 different railroads.



**Scott Lothes** (President and Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center's staff in 2008. He has authored or coauthored seven books while contributing articles and photographs to numerous magazines. He also edits the Center's journal, *Railroad Heritage*.



**H. Roger Grant**, Clemson, South Carolina, is a professor of history at Clemson and an active writer of railroad history. His dozens of books include company histories of several railroads. He is a native of Albia, Iowa, and previously taught at the University of Akron.



**Albert O. Louer**, Williamsburg, Virginia, recently retired as Director of Principal Gifts at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He worked in museums for fifty years and has research and collecting interests in the Pullman Co. and Midwestern railroads.





**Peter Mosse**, New York, New York, grew up in England and moved to the U.S. in 1977 to set up a precious metals trading subsidiary for the UK Rothschild banking group. He began collecting railroad paintings in 1980 and now owns more than 150 original works.



**Hailey Paige** (Exhibitions and Event Coordinator), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Historical Administration in 2017. She has held several positions in the museum field before coming to the Center in 2017.



**Michael P. Schmidt** (Secretary), Owosso, Michigan, is an orthopedic surgeon and a collector of railroad photographs and paintings. He is Vice Chief of Staff, Chief of Surgery, and serves on the board of trustees of his hospital.



**Heather Sonntag** (Project Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, is currently processing the Ron Hill Collection. She holds a doctorate in cultural history and a masters of library and information science from UW-Madison, and she also works as an assistant archivist of visual materials at the Wisconsin Historical Society.



**Richard Tower**, San Francisco, California, has spent much of his career in the railroad industry with Southern Pacific and Amtrak, and as a consultant. With his wife Caroline, he manages the Candelaria Fund, which supports many community organizations.



**John Walker** (Archives Intern), Madison, Wisconsin, is currently enrolled in UW-Madison's Library and Information Studies graduate program. Hailing from Kentucky, John grew up in a railroading family. He's backpacked across two countries, loves listening to folk ballads, and writes poetry in his spare time.



**Inga Velten** (Development Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2017 and has twenty years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and administration, with expertise in data management, prospect research, and major gift fundraising.

# About the Center

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art is a national nonprofit arts and education organization founded in 1997 and based in Madison, Wisconsin. As its mission the Center preserves and presents significant images of railroading, interpreting them in publications, exhibitions, and on the Internet.

Efforts to preserve railroad artwork and photographs have led to the Center's amassing an archive of more than 460,000 images, including the complete works of several well-known photographers. Full processing of these collections includes housing them in archival-safe storage materials and digitizing the images as well as their captions, or metadata. The Center is actively adding to its archive and conducts these preservation activities both in house and in concert with the Archives & Special Collections of the Donnelley and Lee Library at Lake Forest College.

The Center also collaborates with partners across the country on its presentation work. Foremost is *After Promontory*, an exhibition developed for the sesquicentennial of the first transcontinental railroad completed in 1869. A photography exhibition featuring images from the 1860s to the present, the show examines the significance and lasting impact of the transcontinental railroads on the American West. The exhibition has already been featured at nine venues and is scheduled to travel to two more in 2021.

The Center prepares other traveling exhibitions about railroad workers and individual photographers and artists such as David Plowden and Ted Rose. Venues have included Grand Central Terminal, the California State Railroad Museum, and the Chicago History Museum. The Center has brought twenty unique exhibitions of railroad photography and art to more than 100 venues throughout the country.

Publication of *Railroad Heritage*, the Center's journal, occurs quarterly. Each issue features work by historic and contemporary photographers and artists plus news of the field. Special issues have honored workers, women in railroading, and individual photographers, and have concisely explained railroad history and preservation. The Center also publishes books featuring photographers in its archive and in conjunction with traveling exhibitions and other projects.

Each year going back to 2003, the Center has hosted a conference at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Though we departed from tradition last year due to unprecedented circumstances, Virtual Conversations continues to provide a forum for veteran and young photographers alike—as well as artists, historians, editors, and railroaders—to mingle both socially and formally, present and discuss their work, and address photographic and artistic issues. Thanks to the generosity of several conference patrons, the Center has been able to bring you this program and plans to organize more events in the future.

The Center launched a new series of regional conferences in 2016; our meeting in 2019 featured a transcontinental theme at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art on March 29-30.

The annual John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program recognizes recent work by railroad photographers in the United States and abroad. Named for the Center's principal founder, the awards program includes an exhibition at the California State Railroad Museum.

Visit [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org) to learn more about the Center, browse images from our archives, and find links to other online platforms at Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram, and YouTube. Follow them to stay informed of current events and trends in railroad photography and art as well as the Center's research and acquisitions.



## Join the Center

We are a membership organization, open to all. Your support makes our work possible.

### Membership benefits

- Discounted prices at our annual conference and other events
- Subscription to our quarterly journal, *Railroad Heritage*®

All gifts are acknowledged and tax-deductible to the fullest extent provided. Unless you indicate otherwise, your gifts for the year will be recognized publicly by category in the following year's spring issue of *Railroad Heritage*.

### With Gratitude

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art gratefully acknowledges the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust as underwriter of our fundraising and endowment campaign.

Learn more about joining here:

[railphoto-art.org/support/](http://railphoto-art.org/support/)

## Legacy Society

We are grateful to everyone who supports our mission to preserve, present, and sustain the visual culture of railroading that inspires our community. It is a special honor for us to know that some of you have chosen to include the Center in your long-term charitable gift plans.

Future gifts planned today provide for sustainable funding for all the Center for Railroad Photography & Art's programming, while costing nothing during an individual lifetime. And, making a gift through a will or estate plan is easy, flexible, and impactful.

To have a confidential conversation about planned giving options and recognition through the Center's Legacy society, reach out to Inga Velten, development director, [inga@railphoto-art.org](mailto:inga@railphoto-art.org), 608-251-5785, ext. 102. Or, simply share the sample language in the box (right) with your advisor the next time you update your plans.

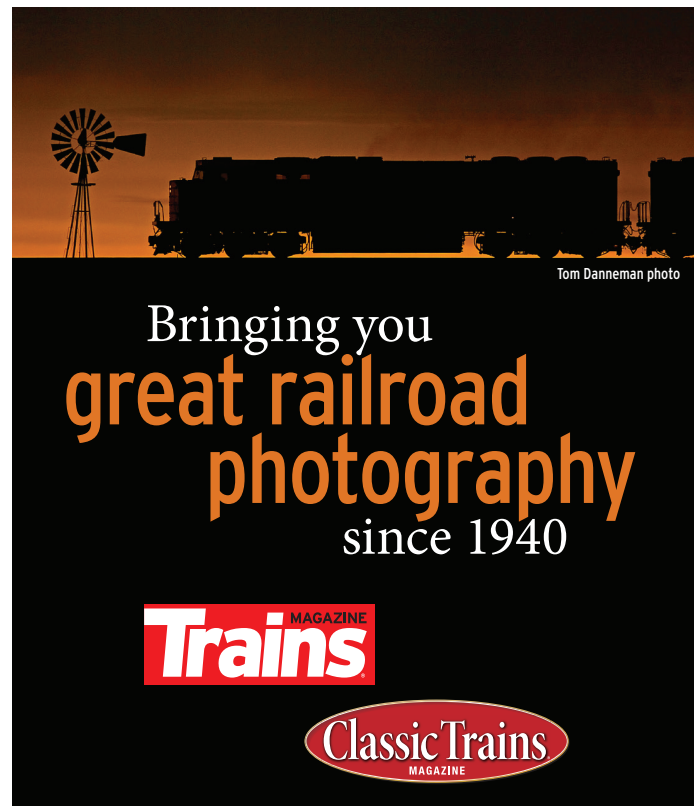
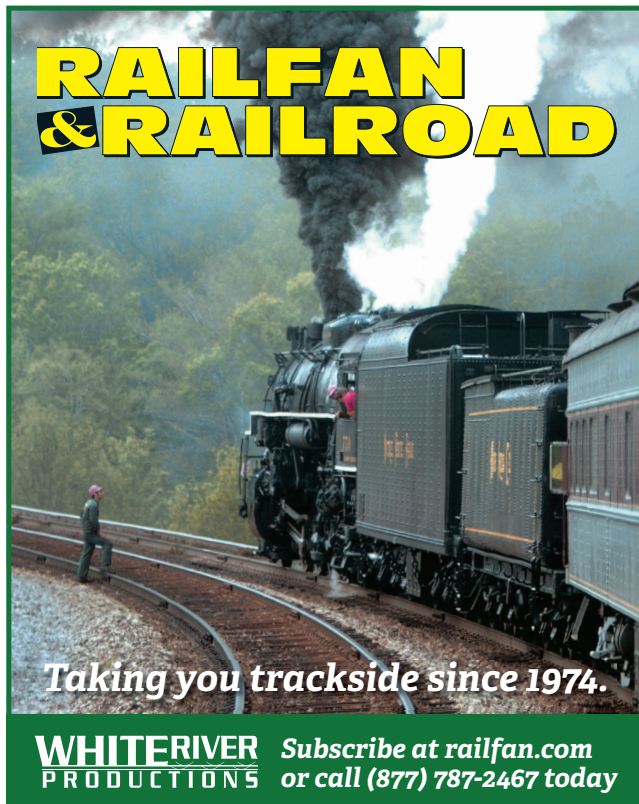


Conductor Tom Burke smiles as he helps passengers climb aboard the last Milwaukee Road passenger train out of the Madison, Wisconsin depot on April 30, 1971. Photograph by John Gruber

### Sample bequest language

I commit \_\_\_\_% and / or \$\_\_\_\_\_ of my estate to the Center for Railroad Photography & Art Endowment (EIN 47-7373395), 1930 Monroe Street, Ste. 301, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711, to provide funding for \_\_\_\_\_ at the Center or the program(s) most in need as determined by the administration of the Center and its board of directors, and by the trustees of the Center's endowment fund.

## Sponsors of Virtual Conversations



Tom E. Dailey Foundation Inc.