

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2014

Contact: Erin Lauderman, 612.625.9685, elauderm@umn.edu

Trains that Passed in the Night: The Photographs of O. Winston Link

MINNEAPOLIS – The Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota presents *Trains that Passed in the Night: The Photographs of O. Winston Link* (July 26, 2014 through February 9, 2015). The exhibition combines two of America's favorite pastimes—photography and trains. O. Winston Link was a commercial photographer and engineer who became well known for his complex images of factory and industrial plant interiors. For Link, the steam railroad was a vital ingredient to “the good life” in America, an essential part of the fabric of our lives. Link was also a pioneer of night photography and used his commercial photography skills to capture the last years of steam railroading and even the hairstyles and fashions in vogue a half-century ago.

Link’s photographs featured in the Carlson Gallery exhibition showcase the final years of steam railroading on the Norfolk & Western Railway, the last major railroad in America to operate exclusively with steam power. They are regarded as one of the best records of this long vanished type of locomotion, yet the broad appeal of Link’s photographs is derived not only from the images of the steam locomotives themselves, but also from the way in which their inclusion expresses the photographer’s deeply felt respect for the quality of life that the steam railroad reflected and supported for so many years in the United States.

The last Norfolk & Western steam locomotive was taken out of service in May 1960. Link returned to New York following the last of his many trips to Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina (the states in which his Norfolk & Western Railway images were recorded) and continued his career as a commercial photographer, including Volkswagen of America and a number of advertising agencies.

The exhibition photographs, all silver gelatin prints, are from the collection of Thomas H. Garver, an assistant of Link, and is circulated by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, Madison, Wisconsin.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Wednesday, September 17 **O. Winston Link lecture by Tom Garver**

Curator and assistant to Link, Tom Garver will talk about the significance of Link’s documentary style photography of locomotives and Americana.

ABOUT WAM

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

###