

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rivers of Steel presents “Working Class Images”
An exhibition in partnership with the Battle of Homestead Foundation

Working Class Images

October 28 – December 16, 2017

The Bost Building Gallery

Homestead, PA (October 18, 2017)—Rivers of Steel announces the opening of *Working Class Images*, an exhibition that examines life and culture in the Monongahela Valley, featuring the work of Charlee Brodsky, Peter Oresick, Robert Qualters, and Jennifer Rempel, presented in partnership with the Battle of Homestead Foundation.

An opening reception is to be held on October 28 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Bost Building Gallery at the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area Visitors Center, 623 East Eighth Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120. Charlee Brodsky, Robert Qualters and Jennifer Rempel will be available to discuss their works; the late Peter Oresick’s works will be represented by his widow Stephanie Flom, also scheduled to attend. The reception is free to the public and includes light refreshments.

Spanning four decades and varied media, the collective works challenge viewers to consider the legacy of industry in the region and its personal importance for these artists, as well as their subjects.

“The exhibit addresses the struggle of workers to attain economic wellbeing and rights within the workplace, as well as expressions of their inner lives,” said Joel Sabadasz, Battle of Homestead Foundation board member and coordinator for this project. “Themes of work, community, struggle, dignity, faith, democracy, patriotism, play, friendship and love are timeless reflections of the region’s working-class life and culture.”

“Rivers of Steel is excited for the opportunity to mount this exhibition featuring four of the regions most talented, and preeminent artists,” said Ron Baraff, exhibition curator and Director of Historic Resources and Facilities for Rivers of Steel. “Their works are honest and thought-provoking, capturing the essence of our collective industrial, and postindustrial narratives.”

“The stories that wind their way through the work are at the core of Rivers of Steel’s mission - to embrace our past, share our collective culture, and build upon this foundation for the present and the future. We can all find a piece of ourselves and our communities within these magnificent works,” Baraff continued.

Gallery talks highlighting the work of each artist are scheduled to begin at 12:00 p.m. on subsequent Saturdays, with Charlee Brodsky discussing her photographs on November 4, Jennifer Rempel giving insight on her mixed media works on November 11, Stephanie Flom illuminating Oresick’s work on December 2, and Robert Qualters examining his paintings on December 9.

Exhibit hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., except for Thanksgiving weekend when the Bost Building will be closed in observance of the holiday both Friday and Saturday. A three dollar suggested donation is encouraged and includes access to the permanent exhibits too.

Artist biographies and image examples can be found [here](#).

Working Class Images is presented by Rivers of Steel, in partnership with the Battle of Homestead Foundation who are commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the 1892 Homestead Strike and Lockout. Additional support for this exhibition was provided to the Battle of Homestead Foundation by the United Steelworkers, Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and The Waterfront.

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Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation

Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation, which manages the eight-county Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, conserves, interprets and develops the region's industrial heritage and the new regional economy throughout southwestern Pennsylvania while promoting tourism and economic development. www.riversofsteel.com