

WILD BEAUTY

Photographs of the Columbia River Gorge, 1867 – 1957

OCTOBER 4, 2008 – JANUARY 11, 2009

EXHIBITION DRIVING TOUR

PORTLAND ART MUSEUM

1219 SW PARK AVENUE, PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

portlandartmuseum.org

1 CROWN POINT/WOMEN'S FORUM STATE PARK



Arthur Prentiss, *Untitled (Rooster Rock and Crown Point)*, c. 1916, Private Collection

2 SHEPPERD'S DELL BRIDGE



George Weister, *Shepperd's Dell*, c. 1916, Private Collection

3 BRIDAL VEIL BLUFF



Winter Photo Company, *Pillars of Hercules*, c. 1916-17, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

4 MULTNOMAH FALLS



Carleton Watkins, *Multnomah Falls*, 1867, Collection of the Oregon Historical Society

5 ONEANTA GORGE



Darius Kinsey, *Oneanta Gorge*, 1923, Private Collection

6 CASCADE LOCKS



Carleton Watkins, *Cascade Rapids*, 1882, Private Collection

7 STARVATION CREEK



Arthur Prentiss, *Untitled (from Viento)*, c. 1916, University of Oregon

8 MITCHELL POINT OVERLOOK



Arthur Prentiss, *Highway Approach to Mitchell Point (from West)*, c. 1916, Collection of the Oregon Historical Society

9 ROWENA CREST



Alfred Monner, *Looking Eastward from Rowena Loops*, 1932, Historic Photo Archive, Portland, Oregon

10 CELILO PARK



Ray Atkeson, *Celilo Falls*, c. 1940s, Courtesy of the Ray Atkeson Estate

11 LYLE, WASHINGTON



Sarah Hall Ladd, *Untitled (Clouds Over the Columbia River)*, 1902-1904, Collection of the Oregon Historical Society

Because of its extraordinary scenic beauty and its historic significance as a transportation corridor, the Columbia River Gorge has been photographed continuously for nearly 150 years. In *Wild Beauty: Photographs of the Columbia River Gorge, 1867–1957*, the Portland Art Museum showcases more than 250 images chronicling the beauty and changing character of this dramatic passage of the Columbia River. Visit the following 11 sites shown in the exhibition to put your feet where these photographers did when they made these images, and see how this living landmark has changed over time.

4 MULTNOMAH FALLS

Try to position yourself where Carleton Watkins likely stood to create this classic view of the Falls. To reach this spot in 1867, Watkins would have had to bushwhack his way from the river carrying more than 100 pounds of equipment. In 1914, Italian stone masons crafted the footbridge and the surrounding stonework. The site was developed into a national park in 1943, and today is the most visited place in the Gorge, attracting some two million tourists annually.

8 MITCHELL POINT OVERLOOK

Follow the footpath to a point overlooking the river. This spot was once the approach to the famed Mitchell Point “Tunnel of Many Vistas,” just around the bend in the photograph above. The tunnel no longer exists—it was demolished during construction of the highway. The photograph captures photographer Arthur Prentiss’ admiration for the new highway and its harmonious integration into the cliff face of the Gorge.

1 CROWN POINT/WOMEN’S FORUM STATE PARK

To view this classic scene in the Gorge, walk down to the end of the overlook. As you face the river look right, to the east. Crown Point and the Vista House are visible in the distance. Arthur Prentiss took this photograph from a lower point closer to the shore. The shoreline has changed dramatically in part due to the construction of the freeway. You can hear and just see a small section of Interstate 84, which was developed beginning in the 1950s.

5 ONEANTA GORGE

The landscape of the Oneanta Gorge has not changed very much since Darius Kinsey made this photograph. It was a special destination for early tourists to the Columbia River Gorge, as it is today. It is one of the most intimate places in the Gorge, forbidding in winter and inviting in summer. About a quarter mile into the Gorge you’ll find a dramatic and sheer waterfall with a plunge pool at the base.

9 ROWENA CREST

The Rowena Crest, a grand vista point, presents a commanding view of the eastern Gorge, just as Crown Point displays a view of the western Gorge. When Alfred Monner made this photograph in 1932, the river still flooded its banks seasonally, as you can see in the image. In the distance the mountains give way to the vastness of the Columbia Plateau.

2 SHEPPERD’S DELL BRIDGE

The road you have traveled on from Crown Point is the historic Columbia River Highway, designed by Samuel C. Lancaster and completed in 1916. Shepperd’s Dell Bridge embodies Lancaster’s desire to engineer a road in harmony with nature that would take visitors to the Gorge’s “beauty spots.” Walk toward the bridge and take the footpath to the left that leads beneath the bridge to a waterfall. The bridge was a tremendous technical challenge to build, requiring excavating the cliff face and constructing this elegant single arch span to support it.

6 CASCADE LOCKS

Walk across the parking lot and cross the “Thunder Island Wedding & Event Site” bridge. Walk toward the river to the wooden platform near the shoreline. Watkins stood somewhere near this spot when he made this photograph in 1882. To help boats navigate the ferocious Cascade Rapids, a series of locks was built beginning in 1880. The grass you are standing on was part of the locks until Bonneville Dam was completed in 1934. The river looks dramatically different from Watkins’ view. Backwater from the Dam has inundated the rapids, now only sometimes evident from the rippled water to your right.

10 CELILO PARK

Celilo Falls, seen in this photograph by Ray Atkeson, was a prime fishing site for Native Americans for more than 10,000 years. As continues today, Native American families passed use of specific fishing spots along the river down to the next generation. When the Dalles Dam was completed in 1956, backwater submerged Celilo Falls, and many other features of the river, crippling these historic indigenous fisheries.

3 BRIDAL VEIL BLUFF

Looking to the west, you are very close to Clarence Winter’s vantage point in 1916. The railroad tracks are much the same as they were then. The rocks seen to the right of the tracks in the photograph were partially buried in the road grade fill when Interstate 84 was built. Only their tips are now visible. The shoreline extends further now than in 1916—a change that also resulted from the highway’s construction.

7 STARVATION CREEK

Find a vantage looking back across the freeway, down river. If you compare Arthur Prentiss’ photograph to this view today you’ll see the impact railroad and highway transportation has had on the landscape and the river. The quiet tranquility Prentiss captured is gone and on many days the roar of the freeway dominates the atmosphere.

11 LYLE, WASHINGTON

This spot is very close to where photographers Lily White and Sarah Hall Ladd moored their houseboat. Ferries crossed the river here from the late 19th century and well into the 20th century. Ladd was probably attracted to this vista because of the great expanse of sky and river. As weather systems move inland across this area, bands of clouds form in the eastern Gorge, which you may see on your visit today.

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS

**TO STOP 1 CROWN POINT/
WOMEN'S FORUM STATE PARK
24 MILES**

From Portland, take the I-5 N toward The Dalles/I-84 E/Seattle. Take exit 300 to merge onto I-84 E/US-30 E toward The Dalles/Portland Airport (20 miles). Take exit 22 toward Corbett. Turn right at NE Corbett Hill Rd. Turn left to stay on NE Corbett Hill Rd. Make a slight left at Historic Columbia River Hwy. Turn left at NE Rooster Rock Rd. Park in the parking lot.

**TO STOP 2 SHEPPERD'S DELL BRIDGE
4.5 MILES**

Exit the parking lot and make a left, going east on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Continue on past the Vista House until you come to Shepperd's Dell Bridge. Cross over the bridge and park on the shoulder on the right.

**TO STOP 3 BRIDAL VEIL BLUFF
1.5 MILES**

Continue east on the Historic Columbia River Highway. At Bridal Veil, make a left and park in the parking lot. Take the paved foot path at the west end of the parking lot to the overlook. When the road forks at the large map, make a left and walk a few feet to the view of the river and railroad below.

**TO STOP 4 MULTNOMAH FALLS
3.5 MILES**

Continue east on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Park in the parking lot and follow signs to the Falls.

**TO STOP 5 ONEANTA GORGE
2 MILES**

Continue east on the Historic Columbia River Highway to Oneanta Falls. Park and walk up toward the closed-off tunnels. Stand where you can look up the Gorge.

**TO STOP 6 CASCADE LOCKS
11 MILES**

Continue east on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Take the ramp onto I-84 E/US-30 E. Take exit 44 for US-30 toward Stevenson/Cascade Locks.

Make a slight right at US-30/WA-Na-PA St. Turn left at the sign to Cascade Locks Park. The road to the park passes under a railroad overpass.

**TO STOP 7 STARVATION CREEK
13 MILES**

Head northeast on US-30/WA-Na-PA St toward SW Cascade Ave. Turn left to merge onto I-84 E toward The Dalles. Take exit 56 toward Viento State Park. Turn left at Viento Rd. Turn left to merge onto I-84 W/US-30 W toward Portland.

**TO STOP 8 MITCHELL POINT OVERLOOK
4 MILES**

Get back on I-84 E/US-30 going east. Take the Mitchell Point exit straight to the parking lot.

**TO STOP 9 ROWENA CREST
17 MILES**

Get back on I-84 E/US-30 E. Take exit 69 for US-30 toward Mosier. Follow the keystone signs along US 30 to Rowena Crest. Make a right to reach Rowena Crest Viewpoint.

**TO STOP 10 CELILO PARK
23.5 MILES**

Head southwest toward US-30. Make a sharp right at US-30. Turn left toward I-84 E. Turn right to merge onto I-84 E toward The Dalles. Take exit 97 for OR-206 toward Celilo Park/Deschutes State Park. Turn left at OR-206. OR-206 turns slightly left and becomes Celilo Park Rd.

**TO STOP 11 LYLE, WASHINGTON
21 MILES**

Head northeast on Celilo Park Rd toward OR-206. Turn right to merge onto I-84 W/US-30 W toward The Dalles. Take exit 87 for US-197/US-30 toward Dufur/Bend. Turn right at US-197. Entering Washington, turn left at WA-14 and go 7 miles to Lyle. Turn left (south) toward the river on 7th St. Continue down 7th St. until the road ends at the river. Park where you can.

Share your images and memories of the Gorge with us! Post photographs and tell us about them on the Portland Art Museum's Flickr site: flickr.com/groups/portlandartmuseum_wildbeauty/

