

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2010

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art presents:

What: The Romance of the Rails

When: October 2 – December 23, 2010
October 2 • 7 to 9 pm | Opening Reception: FREE and open to public

Where: Galleries, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640

Cost: \$8 Adults | \$5 Children | FREE to ABDM members

Information: Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org

Find this on our website: <http://www.mcfta.org/ExhibitionsABDM.html#rails>

MIDLAND – Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art at Midland Center for the Arts presents a new exhibition, *The Romance of the Rails*, October 2 – December 23, 2010. From photographs to model trains, these exhibits celebrate the age when railroads were king. Opening reception is October 2, 7 to 9 pm: FREE and open to the public. Museum admission is \$8 Adults | \$5 Children | FREE to ABDM members. Museum hours are Monday, Tuesday: CLOSED | Wednesday - Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm | Thursday until 8 pm | Sunday: 1 pm to 5 pm | CLOSED on major holidays | CLOSED December 24 thru January 4. Sponsored by School Days.

***The Romance of the Rails* includes:**

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

Photographer O. Winston Link took pleasure in recording the life of the railroad and its people, capturing images not only of steam locomotives, but of life along the railroad line. Thirty-six black-and-white gelatin silver photographs illustrate the final years of steam railroading on the Norfolk and Western Railway, the last major railroad in America to operate exclusively with steam power. Organized by the Center for Railroad Photography and curator Thomas Garver.

Steam, Diesel and Time: Keith Burgess Railroad Photography

Keith Burgess presents subtle photographic poetry in this exhibition of stunning images that reflect his passion for the romance of the rails.

The Midland Pere Marquette Line Train Derailment: Photographs by Alden B. Dow

Young Alden B. Dow's fascination with steam locomotives was invigorated when a train jumped the track of the Pere Marquette Railway one block from his home in downtown Midland, Michigan. Mr. Dow was there in moments to document it in these rich, rare black-and-white photographs. Courtesy of the Alden B. Dow Archives.

Tim Davis Photographs: Train Patinas

Within the natural patinas of the sides of trains and boxcars – the well-used surfaces that have been painted, weathered, rusted, oxidized, scratched, repainted and abused – Mr. Davis finds random beauty to reveal powerful abstract images that often mirror the improvisation of the best of abstract expressionists such as Arshile Gorky, Adolf Gottlieb or Clyford Still.

Railroad Landscapes: The Photography of Scott Lothes

Railroads have been leaving their marks on the land for nearly two centuries, fostering both development and decline along the routes their builders chose – and didn't choose. Those routes were dictated by the land itself, the eroding forces of wind and especially water carving out the paths that steel rails now follow. Combining his passions for railroads and American landscapes, Scott Lothes explores their dynamic and ongoing relationship in his photography.

World-Class Train Models

Rare and remarkably detailed train models from private collectors will marvel you with their intricacy and craftsmanship. Of particular interest are the world-famous Italian masterpiece train models crafted by Attilio Mari, and the astounding train models produced by Fine Art Models of Royal Oak, Michigan.

Other Special Attractions

Saginaw River Valley Train Club model train layout (through November 15)

B.E.A.M. Model Railroad Club model train layout (through November 15)

The Michigan LEGO User Group train layout (through November 15)

Antique train collectibles and toys

PLUS, LOOK AT THESE FUN ACTIVITIES COMING DOWN THE TRACK!

Family Thursday Nights • Thursdays, October 2 through December 16 | 4 pm to 8 pm

Get a FREE Child admission with every paid Adult admission between 4 pm and 8 pm! Excluding November 4.

All Aboard the Story Train! • Wednesdays starting October 6 | 3 pm

Listen to railroad-inspired stories in the galleries. Free with Museum admission.

Polar Express Pajama Party • November 4 | 6 – 8 pm

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the beloved children's book *The Polar Express*. Wear your pajamas! Enjoy free refreshments! At 7 pm join us for a multi-media reading of *The Polar Express* and of course enjoy *The Romance of the Rails* exhibition including the Young Engineers Depot play area. Free with Museum admission.

The Polar Express movie • December 18 | 10:30 am

The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library screens the 2004 movie *The Polar Express* in their auditorium! Call 837-3430 for details.

Young Engineers Depot • Open during Museum hours

A fun, interactive area for children to play. Free with Museum admission.

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art (ABDM) provides a forum to engage the people of mid-Michigan in the constructive and creative expressions found in science and in art. Exhibitions in the Museum, classes at the Museum School, multiple outreach programs, a permanent collection and various special events are all components in the ABDM programming.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

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