

WICHITA *art* MUSEUM

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American Ruins Exhibition Arriving at the Wichita Art Museum

Wichita: Experience some of America's most historic sites through the *American Ruins* exhibition, opening June 29 at the Wichita Art Museum. This collection showcases significant and ancient places in the United States, forming a tangible link to our shared American past and creating a vision of where we are headed.

Photographer Arthur Drooker traveled across the country to capture these historic places, from the early Native American abodes in the Southwest to the remains of Gilded Age mansions on the East coast. Their crumbled walls and haunting exteriors allows the exhibitor to connect with the past, discuss significant events that have shaped American history and the importance of preserving architectural sites for future generations.

American Ruins features 50 photographs of more than 25 historical sites including Civil War-era ruins in the South, a colonial settlement in the mid-Atlantic region and a ghost town in the West. As part of the collection, these ruins had to meet certain criteria: they had to be part of a preservation program, have historical value and they had to represent the geographical and architectural diversity of America.

The collection of photographs also has a companion book *American Ruins: Spirits in Stone*. Arthur Drooker is also an award-winning writer and director of television documentaries, producing more than 50 hours of programming for A&E and the History Channel.

Exhibition Dates:

June 29th 2008 to September 7th 2008

The Wichita Art Museum opened in 1935. It is home to The Roland P. Murdock Collection, one of the premier collections of American Art in the country. The Museum is proud to be supported through public and private funds, owned by the City of Wichita and managed by a private entity, Wichita Art Museum, Inc. Located at 1400 West Museum Boulevard, the Museum and Museum store are open Sunday noon – 5 p.m., and Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors (55+) and students with I.D.; \$2 for children 5 - 17. Admission is free every Saturday and scheduled school groups are always free. There is no admission charge for visiting the Museum Store or Café.

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