



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

In Plane View: Abstractions of Flight

New Traveling Exhibition

The iconic aircraft and spacecraft in the Smithsonian's collections embody decades of historical and technological milestones, from the first successful flight to breaking the sound barrier to landing on the moon. Yet rarely do museum visitors focus on the aesthetic attributes of these celebrated flying machines.

In Plane View, an exhibition by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum photographer Carolyn Russo, redirects our attention to the often-overlooked "simple beauty" of aircraft design. With precedents in the work of Robert Delaunay, Charles Sheeler, and Arshile Gorky, among others, Russo uses fine-art photography to bring out new visual dimensions of these powerful symbols of the 20th century, transforming them into works of art.

Russo's striking color photographs focus on the interplay between functional technology and craftsmanship. She recasts the familiar and finds unprecedented means of representing the exotic by distilling the complexity of civil and military airplanes and spaceships into bold combinations of line, shape, light, and color.

The exhibition features interpretive text by Anne Collins Goodyear, assistant curator of prints and drawings at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and a specialist in the relationship of art, science, and technology. Labels detailing the significance of the depicted craft are accompanied by commentary from historic and contemporary aviators, engineers, and designers.

—Museum-goers were first treated to Russo's work in the acclaimed *Women and Flight* exhibition.

Exhibit Specifications

Content

56 large-format framed photographs, text and quotation panels, labels

Supplements

A copy of the companion In Plane View book publication (powerHouse Books, 2007) and order information, Family Exhibit Guide developed by NASM Education Department, Exhibition poster design, exhibition script, sample press release and CD of images for press.

Participation Fee

\$3,500.00 for 12 - week booking period, plus outgoing shipping

\$3,000.00 for 12 - week booking period, plus outgoing shipping (rate for Smithsonian Affiliates)

Content/Scheduling

National Air and Space Museum
Carolyn Russo
202-633-2389 (Telephone)
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russoc@si.edu (E-mail)

Size

Approximately 300 Running Feet

Weight

To be determined

Crates

Approximately 5 crates

Security

Moderate

Tour Begins

March 2008

Smithsonian Affiliations Contact

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Carolyn Russo

National Air and Space Museum

Carolyn Russo, photographer of *In Plane View*, has worked at the National Air and Space Museum since 1988 as a staff photographer. She is author of *In Plane View: Abstractions of Flight* (powerHouse Books, December 2007), *Artifacts of Flight* (Harry N. Abrams, 2003) and *Women and Flight: Portraits of Contemporary Women Pilots* (Bulfinch Press, 1997.)

Artifacts of Flight received awards from the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) 50 Books/50 Covers Competition and the American Association of Museums (AAM) Publications Design Competition. *Women and Flight: Portraits of Contemporary Women Pilots*, was a widely circulated SITES traveling exhibition.

Russo holds a B.F.A. in photography from the Massachusetts College of Art and her work has appeared in both solo and group shows. Currently, she is working on a new project photographing airport towers.

Anne Collins Goodyear

National Portrait Gallery

Anne Collins Goodyear is Assistant Curator of Prints and Drawings at the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. She received her Ph.D. in 2002 from the University of Texas at Austin, writing her dissertation on "*The Relationship of Art to Science and Technology in the United States, 1957-1971: Five Case Studies.*"

Goodyear is the author of essays in *Reconsidering a Century of Flight*, edited by Roger Launius and Janet R. Daly Bednarek (UNC Press, 2003) and exhibition catalogues for the North Carolina Museum of Art's *Defying Gravity: Contemporary Art and Flight* (Prestel, 2003) and the Art Institute of Chicago's 2001: *Building for Space Travel* (Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 2001).

She is co-editor of *Flight: A Celebration of 100 Years in Art and Literature* (Welcome Enterprises, 2003) and a curator and collaborator with the *In Plane View: Abstractions of Flight* exhibit and book publication.