

CIALDELLA GALLERY TALK

PHOTOGRAPHER TO SPEAK NOV. 11 AS EXHIBIT OPENS

VALPARAISO, Ind. – Valparaiso University’s Brauer Museum of Art presents an exhibit featuring works from “The Calumet Region: An American Place,” a new book featuring black and white photographs of Northwest Indiana’s industrial and residential landscape through the lens of photographer Gary Cialdella.

A selection of approximately 20 of Cialdella’s Calumet region photographs is on display in Brauer Museum now through March 21, and Cialdella will talk about his works during a gallery talk Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. Copies of the book will be available at the talk, which is free and open to the public, and Cialdella will sign books that are purchased.

A professional architectural photographer, established fine artist, educator and historian, Cialdella said he found himself drawn back to the area where he grew up for a 20-year photographic exploration that resulted in hundreds of images. Nearly 100 of those images appear in the new book prepared by Brauer Museum, reflecting the artist’s sensitive, sustained vision and the changes the region has experienced through economic shifts and the general effects of time.

“Cialdella’s Calumet pictures thoroughly examine an area of the United States that is often overlooked, but is vitally important to the country’s history,” said Gregg Hertzlieb, editor of the book and director/curator of Valpo’s Brauer Museum of Art (<http://www.valpo.edu/artmuseum>). “Steel mills, tank farms and refineries coexist with neighborhood houses in the artist’s beautifully composed pieces, which please the eye with their full tonal range and crisp focus.”

More information on Cialdella’s book is available online at <http://www.valpo.edu/calumetregion>. Cialdella was born in Chicago and raised in nearby Blue Island, Ill. He earned his master’s degree in photography from the University of Notre Dame and holds a master’s degree in history from Western Michigan University, and he has taught photography and photographic history at both universities. His work is represented in the Museum of Contemporary Photography’s archive of Midwest photographers and in many corporate and private collections including the LaSalle Bank Photography Collection, Pfizer Corporation Collection, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and Brauer Museum of Art. More information about the artist can be found at his Web site <http://www.garycialdella.com>.

More information about Brauer Museum’s 2009-2010 season, including a complete list of exhibition-related events, is available online at <http://www.valpo.edu/artmuseum>. Brauer Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during the academic year. Admission to the museum and all events is free. Group tours may be arranged by calling (219) 465-7926.