

David Heberlein recently retired as professor emeritus from the University of Wisconsin System at River Falls. His teaching career spanned thirty years and upwards of a thousand photography students.

His photographs allude to an interest in culture and geography; how we interact with nature, and each other, to create a sense of place. Past projects include photographing transitional zones between rural and suburban spaces, a decommissioned army ammunition plant, and landscapes of northern Scotland.

Currently he is working on two book projects. Park Place, Out West, his first monograph, will be published late 2022. The National Park Service was established by Congress in 1916 to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” This directive to preserve wilderness, yet provide tourist access appears to be a contradiction that continues today, and provides for interesting photographic opportunities. This ongoing research, started in 1992, explores many western American national parks and monuments.

A second book project, Swissness, is a collection of photographs made over 45 years. He lived and worked in Switzerland for two years in the mid-1970’s, and has returned to photograph many times since then, intrigued by Swiss culture and the landscape. *Swissness* is a marketing term adopted by the Swiss Parliament in 2013 to describe goods and services made in Switzerland. It is an updated version of ‘Swiss Made’ and alludes to more than the product or service itself- implying a higher level of superiority about everything Swiss. The photographs offer his personal definition of the term.

He is the recipient of many awards including; a Wisconsin Arts Board Individual Artist Fellowship, Wisconsin State Historical Society Sesquicentennial Rephotographic Grant, State of Wisconsin (Dept. of Workforce Development) Wisconsin Workers Photo Project Grant, Minnesota History Center Documentary Photography Grant, and numerous University of Wisconsin-River Falls Foundation and Research Grants. His photographs have been exhibited widely and are in the collections of the Minnesota History Center, Weisman Art Museum, Plains Art Museum, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

He lives with his wife, Judy, in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.