



# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 40

Summer 2011

Number 3

### *IA IN ART* THE URBAN INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPES OF VALERI LARKO

**F**or more than two decades painter Valeri Larko has focused on the urban industrial landscape of northern New Jersey and the outer boroughs of New York City, especially the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens. The artist creates densely detailed and carefully observed canvases that capture the visual poetry of decaying structures at the margins of urban life: “In these often overlooked areas I find grit and beauty in equal measures.” Drawn to the “jumble of rusting industrial sites, aging infrastructure and funky waterways” that comprise “the ruins of our contemporary culture,” in such ordinary places, she discovers “stories that reflect how we have changed and continue to change the environment.” Larko aims “not to copy everything exactly but instead to capture

the essence of a particular place and time.”

Her subjects have included the full complement of structures that are fundamental to the field of industrial archeology—bridges, smoke stacks, factories, warehouses, decrepit piers and pilings, elevated railways, power plants, transformers, cyclone separators, salvage yards, refineries, obsolete oil terminals and storage tanks, and water towers—all emblematic of our gritty cities.

Larko seeks sites with strong visual presences that also provide her with a good vantage point for her easel. She makes pen-and-ink drawings, followed by oil sketches, before commencing the final painting. Characteristically, Larko visits a site frequently over a period of two to three months. Because of the changing light, she works on one

*(continued on page 2)*



*Valeri Larko, Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2010, oil/linen, 25" × 60", collection of the artist.*

#### **In This Issue:**

- Seattle Conference Review
  - IA Tours, Remote-Sensing Workshop, and more.
- Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
- Richard Anderson, Jr.—  
General Tools Award Recipient
- 2011 Industrial Heritage Grants Announced
- *IA Journal* Seeks Book Review Editor
- Cleveland Cliffs Mining Archive On-Line
- Preston Glass Lab Seeks Help
- Marie Nisser Remembered

# **SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY**

Department of Social Sciences  
Michigan Technological University  
1400 Townsend Drive  
Houghton MI 49931-1295

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 11  
Houghton, MI 49931

## CALENDAR

### 2011

**Oct. 6-7: First Annual Natural Gas History Symposium, Titusville, Pa.** Sponsored by the Oil Region Alliance on the campus of the Univ. of Pittsburgh at Titusville. Info: [www.oil150.com/calendar/details/?id=291](http://www.oil150.com/calendar/details/?id=291).

**Oct. 11-16: Assn. for Preservation Technology Annual Conference, Victoria, B.C.** Info: [www.apti.org](http://www.apti.org).

**Oct. 12-15: Pioneer America Society: Assn. for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes, Annual Conference, Stuart, Fla.** Info: [www.pioneeramerica.org](http://www.pioneeramerica.org).

**Oct. 13-16: SIA FALL TOUR, QUINNEBAUG VALLEY, CONN.** Info: [www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org).

**Oct. 19-22: National Preservation Conference, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Buffalo, N.Y.** Paper sessions and tours on the topic of industrial heritage are planned, some with input from SIA members. Info: [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org).

**Oct. 20-22: Grain Elevators: A Heritage to Be Created, 3rd International Meeting of the TICCIH Agriculture and Food Section, Nogent-sur-Seine, France.** Technology, construction, aesthetics, and conservation. Info: [picot.francoise@yahoo.com](mailto:picot.francoise@yahoo.com).

**Nov. 3-6: Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Conference, Cleveland, Ohio.** Info: [www.historyoftechnology.org](http://www.historyoftechnology.org).

**Nov. 5: GREAT FALLS SYMPOSIUM, ROEBLING CHAPTER SIA, PATERSON, N.J.** Paper sessions on the IA of the Greater N.Y.-N.J. metropolitan area. Info: <http://roeblingsia.org>.

**Nov. 17-18: The Life of New Materials Conference, Hagley Museum & Library, Wilmington, Del.** Co-sponsored by the Chemical Heritage Foundation and Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science. Paper sessions will explore the ways in which the development, use, and re-use of new materials is an embedded feature of industrial society. Info: [www.hagley.org/library/center/conferences.html](http://www.hagley.org/library/center/conferences.html).

**Nov. 17-20: The 14th National Conference on Planning History, Baltimore, Md.** Society for American City and Regional Planning History. Paper sessions and tours on architecture, planning, geography, and landscape design. Info: [www.dcp.ufl.edu/sacrph](http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/sacrph).

**Nov. 27-Dec. 2: 17th International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Paris, France.** Theme of conference is *Heritage: Driver of Development*. Info: [www.icomos-paris2011.com](http://www.icomos-paris2011.com).

### 2012

**Jan. 4-8: Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Conference, Baltimore, Md.** Info: [www.sha.org](http://www.sha.org).

**Mar. 5-6: Iron & Steel Preservation Conference, Lansing, Mich.** Paper sessions and hands-on demonstrations of historic fabrication and repair techniques. Info: [www.historic-bridgerestoration.com](http://www.historic-bridgerestoration.com).

**Mar. 16-18: Ephemera Society of America Annual Conference, Old Greenwich, Conn.** See article in this issue. Info: [www.ephemerasociety.org](http://www.ephemerasociety.org).

**Mar. 28-31: American Society for Environmental History, Madison, Wis.** Info: <http://aseh.net>.

**Mar. 29-31: Business History Conference Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa.** Info: [BHC2012@hagley.org](mailto:BHC2012@hagley.org) or Carol Lockman, (302) 628-2400, ext. 243.

**Apr. 18-22: Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Detroit, Mich.** Info: [www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org).

**Apr. 19-22: National Council on Public History Annual Conference, Milwaukee, Wis.** Info: [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

**May 16-19: Early American Industries Assn. Annual Meeting, Solomons Island, Md.** Info: [www.eaiainfo.org](http://www.eaiainfo.org).

**May 31-June 3: SIA 41st ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CINCINNATI, OHIO.** Info: [www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org). ■