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American Industry

Kim Steele

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- *American Industry* is a celebration and documentation of the might, space, and beauty of the golden era of epochal American industry from the 20th century as reflected in architecture, exploration, and mechanical power
- Steele has worked on corporate and editorial assignments for the giants of the American industrial landscape: Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, Mead Paper Company, AT&T; and for their media counterparts: Life, Fortune portfolios, Forbes, Paris Match, Der Stern, and Smithsonian magazine, amongst others
- A "Modern Master" for Andy Warhol's Magazine, *Interview*, Steele has captured a piece of Americana that caught the eye of important Artists & Art Directors: Ivan Chermayeff, Tom Geismar, Elton Robinson, Milton Glaser, Paul Rand, and Arnold Sachs

American Industry is as much a celebration as it is documentation. Through his unique vision and privileged access, photographer Kim Steele has achieved a spectacular distillation of a variety of icons of power. Some of these places of power are literal: sources of hydro-electric energy, such as dams or atomic and accelerators. Other places of power are more metaphorical: the might of massive construction as only heavy industry can achieve, whether in architecture or ships; or the romance of aviation and the exploration of space.

The photographic images are as iconic as their subjects. Formally pure and powerful in their scale and clarity, they mirror the ambitious and inspirational quality of what are now understood to be quintessential and classic symbols of American ingenuity and drive. Together, the seven chapters, Hydro Power, Aviation, Heavy Industry, Energy, Space, Atomic Energy, and The Future, create a visual tapestry of American industrial power in the 20th century. A testimony of a gilded age of American Industrial might.

Kim Steele is a San Francisco-based American photographer. He was educated at the Newhouse School of communications at Syracuse University. After graduating he received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and attended graduate school at the University of New Mexico, where he studied under Beaumont Newhall. In the 1970s through 2000s, his work was exhibited at the Foster/White Gallery in Seattle, OK Harris in New York, then Charles Cowles Gallery in Chelsea. His work is in the collections at MoMa, New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, LACMA, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Denver Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, and many other collections. As well as in corporate collections such as Chase Manhattan Bank, Goldman Sachs, and New York Life.

In addition to fine artwork Kim Steele has also taken on editorial assignments from clients such as Life, Fortune, Forbes, Smithsonian, Paris Match, and Stern. He also produces unforgettable images for corporate clients include such as EDS, Mobil Oil, Mead Paper, AT&T, Frito-Lay, and Exxon.

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