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Constructing Possibilities: Photographs of the Maumee River Crossing Project

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Professor Lynn Whitney

**Constructing Possibilities:
Photographs of the Maumee
River Crossing Project**

Wednesday, February 23 at 1:30 p.m.
Sky Bank Room (201A), BTSU

How do photographs illustrate the scale and aesthetic beauty of the construction of the I-280 bridge?

What do photos convey about a bridge in terms of design, of labor, and of human possibility?

Challenging people's intelligence, physical strength, and endurance, the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge became to poets and artists a special metaphor of the possible. Over a century later, aesthetics, design, and engineering technologies have changed, but the significance of bridges has not. In this talk, illustrated by photographs commissioned by the Toledo Art Museum, photographer and BGSU professor Lynn Whitney describes one of the most significant feats of engineering to take place in Northwest Ohio – the construction of the single-pylon, cable-stayed, I-280 bridge. The Maumee River Crossing Project, designed by the renowned Figg and Associates Group, and built, like the Brooklyn Bridge, against a backdrop of daunting working conditions and lost lives, inspires the need to create and record. On foot and up close, Whitney explores the physicality of the bridge, insistent on the fact of its design and the humanness of labor. From the vast to the intimately human, from cofferdam and tower to nuts and bolts and funnels and wheelbarrows, Whitney documents the creation of a 21st century bridge.

Lynn Whitney (MFA, Yale) is Associate Professor of Photography in the School of Art at BGSU. Passionate about photography, Whitney has a special interest in traditional documentary-style black and white medium/large format work. Currently a fellow at ICS, her work is included in the collections of The Southeast Center for Photographic Studies, (Daytona Beach, FL), The Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, OH), the Yale University Sterling Memorial Library (New Haven, CT) and others.

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All events are free and open to the public.
For more information call (419) 372-0585.