

The Bridge at Hoover Dam • Jamey Stillings
A 285 Image Digital Archive for University of Nevada, Las Vegas Libraries

This collection of 285 images represents a range of work from *The Bridge at Hoover Dam*, a photography project about construction of the *Mike O'Callahan - Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge*. First photographs were taken on March 4-5, 2009, when I encountered the bridge's construction crossing Hoover Dam on a photo road trip. My final shoot for the project was January 12-14, 2011. In April 2012, I was commissioned to undertake an additional aerial shoot. Images from this photography are also included in the archive.

The images are organized into three folders and delivered as 2500 pixel 8 bit TIFF files in Adobe RGB color space with a watermark copyright band across the bottom edge of each.

1. *Exhibition and Book Images* - This is the core group of 65 images used for the book (*The Bridge at Hoover Dam*, Nazraeli Press, 2011), the traveling exhibition, or both.

2. *Additional Images from Working Files* - This group of 77 images augments the 65 images above. They are used for editorial licensing, presentations, etc. where additional imagery is needed to supplement the first image group.

3. *Additional Images from Adjusted RAW Files* - This group of 143 images broadens the scope of imagery shot over the course of the project. There are many reasons why images don't become part of a prime edit of photographs: image quality, sister images, avoiding redundant viewpoints, events that happened at the wrong time of day, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, etc. However, many of these images record important events, such as placement of the bridge's last girder, or provide interesting process information such as construction of the rebar framework for the arch segments. (Note: I made basic color and contrast corrections in Lightroom, then exported these images as TIFF files. They were never worked on individually in Photoshop.)

I hope the three image groups can work together, symbiotically, to provide a fuller understanding of the design and construction of the Bridge, and its relationship to Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and the Colorado River within the Black Canyon. It may also provide insight into my photographic and creative process.

Many of the photographs in this project were made possible, or limited by, the state of digital photography in the years 2009-2012: high ISO photographs made from a helicopter in early morning or late evening light, the dynamic range of individual exposures sometimes assisted by bracketing then combined later in Photoshop, etc. I made my share of mistakes along the way: used lenses that were inferior to my needs, shot with too-open apertures, did not double-check my focus... Still, my technical execution and aesthetic sensibilities synthesized into a body of work I am proud to have created. I hope those who are interested in the Bridge and Hoover Dam will enjoy them.

Jamey Stillings, June 2014

Archive File Naming Protocol

- The first number series of each file name is the date written as: YYYYMMDD.
- The last number series of each file name is unique to the image with numbers running from the start to the end of the project.
- "EB" denotes images used in the bridge exhibition, book or both.
- "w1, w2, w3" denotes that the file came from a working file and its version.