



PRIVATE LIVES AND PUBLIC WORKS


150 Years of Civil Engineering in America

Gregory K. Dreicer, Ph.D

Historian, Museum Curator and Exhibition Developer

Co-Director, Chicken&Egg Public Projects


Me, Myself and Infrastructure is the vision of curator Greg Dreicer and was designed by Chicken&Egg Public Projects, Inc., and Boym Partners, Inc. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) supported this project to commemorate its 150th anniversary.



Gregory K. Dreicer is a historian, museum curator and exhibition developer. He received a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Cornell University in 1993 and a M.S. in Historic Preservation from Columbia University in 1995.

Dreicer's areas of study include building, engineering and architecture during the 19th and 20th centuries, and technological invention as an intercultural activity. His projects are designed to engage the public and mass media in exploration and discussion of their environment.

In 1999-2000, Dreicer was a Fellow at the New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers and instructor at Parsons School of Design, New School University, where he developed and co-taught a multidisciplinary history seminar/design studio that combined the studies of technology and culture within a design framework. As a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Dreicer organized the Architecture of Segregation symposium.



Previously, he was a Senior Fellow at the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. As Curator (1993-1997) at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., Dreicer created exhibitions including *Barn Again!* (1993), an exploration of barns and agriculture, traveling versions of which are touring 52 rural venues in 17 states (1997-2002, a collaborative venture with the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils). He also created the exhibition and publication *Between Fences* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1996), a cultural history of fences and land use in the United States.

He is currently completing a book entitled *Engineering Nations*, which explores how nineteenth-century technologists reinvented building as they participated in the physical and intellectual construction of the modern nation-state.

Dreicer founded Chicken&Egg Public Projects, Inc. in 2000. He serves as the company's historian and exhibition curator. Hall Smyth is the company's co-director, serving as the communications designer. Chicken&Egg conceives and develops interpretive environments and interactive strategies that advance public understanding of cultural and social issues. The team develops projects that educate and entertain by combining technical and informational components with artistic, engaging communication and design.

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Hall Smyth

Designer

Co-Director, *Chicken&Egg Public Projects*

Designer Hall Smyth specializes in print and exhibition design with a focus on public education and the development of identity. He was senior designer at Design/Writing/Research in New York from 1993 until 1996, when he became Art Director of The New Press. Since founding the design firm BAD in 1996, Smyth has collaborated with artists and designers on book and exhibition projects for clients including The New Press, Simon and Schuster, The Free Press, W.W. Norton, Doubleday, Storefront for Art and Architecture, Distributed Art Publishers, PublicAffairs, The Tenri Gallery, Monthly Review Press, Bard College, John Wiley and Sons, and Marsilio Publishers. Smyth has undertaken a number of independent exhibition projects in graphic design.

While at Design/Writing/Research, Smyth's clients included the Whitney Museum, Princeton Architectural Press (Agrest and Gandelsonas: Architects), Smithsonian Institution Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum (Mechanical Brides: Women and Machines from Home to Office exhibition and catalogue), National Building Museum (World War II and the American Dream exhibition), *Dance Ink* magazine, *Print* magazine, Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology and Harry N. Abrams (Geoffrey Beene Unbound exhibition and catalogue), National Inventor's Hall of Fame (permanent exhibition), and International Center of Photography (Twenty Years 1974-1994 catalogue).

Smyth designed books including: *Changing New York: Berenice Abbott* (Museum of the City of New York), *Women in the 19th Century: Categories and Contradictions* (Musée d'Orsay), *Dreamland: America at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century* (Michael Lesy), *Dr. Seuss Goes to War: The World War II Editorial Cartoons of Theodor Seuss Geisel* (The New Press), *Unreal America: Architecture and Illusion* (The New Press), *Ellis Island and the Peopling of America: The Official Guide* (Ellis Island Museum), *Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About Their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Emancipation* (Library of Congress), *Epidemic!, Biodiversity, Earth, and Space* (American Museum of Natural History), *One Hundred Jobs: A Panorama of Work in the American City* (New Press), *Racism Explained to My Daughter* (The New Press), *Shades of L.A.: Pictures from Ethnic Family Albums* (Los Angeles Public Library), *Freedom's Unfinished Revolution* (American Social History Project).

Smyth has taught and lectured on graphic design at institutions including Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Cooper Union, Parsons School of Design, and Université de Paris IV.

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