



water

OUR
THIRSTY
WORLD

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EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDE

ANNENBERG SPACE
FOR PHOTOGRAPHY





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JUERGEN NOGAI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE ANNENBERG SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

03 HISTORY • EXHIBITS • DESIGN

04 FEATURES WITHIN THE SPACE

THE CURRENT EXHIBIT: WATER: OUR THIRSTY WORLD

05 AGE RECOMMENDATION • OVERVIEW

06 BIOGRAPHIES OF THE FEATURED ARTISTS

EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDE

08 RELATED CURRICULUM & CONTENT STANDARDS

10 SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES



THE ANNENBERG SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

HISTORY • EXHIBITS • DESIGN

HISTORY The Annenberg Space for Photography opened to the public on March 27, 2009. It is the first solely photographic cultural destination in the Los Angeles area. The Photography Space is an initiative of the Annenberg Foundation and its board of directors. Its creation builds upon the Foundation's long history of supporting visual arts.



EXHIBITS The Annenberg Space for Photography does not maintain a permanent collection of photographs; instead, exhibitions change every four to six months. The content of each show varies and appeals to a wide variety of audiences.

DESIGN The interior of the Space is influenced by the mechanics of a camera and its lens. The central, circular Digital Gallery is contained within the square building much as a convex lens is contained within a camera. The Digital Gallery's ceiling features an iris-like design reminiscent of the aperture of a lens. The aperture design also enhances the Gallery's acoustics.

The Print Gallery curves around the Digital Gallery, representing the way film scrolls within a camera. The curvature of the ceiling line in the Print Gallery mimics the design of a film canister.



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The gray color palette used in the Space was inspired by the standard gray scale card used by photographers for the quality control of colors on printed images and color matching. The beaded glass wall behind the entrance reception desk represents photographic film that has celluloid coating with haloid crystals.



THE ANNENBERG SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

FEATURES WITHIN THE SPACE

FEATURES WITHIN THE SPACE

DIGITAL GALLERY Seamless 7' x 14' glass screens and ultra high-definition, rear-projection imaging systems are used to display photography with stunning clarity and saturation. The screens provide 4k resolution that exceeds the level offered by Blu-Ray. In addition to providing professional photographers a long sought after level of image quality, it also allows for the display of thousands of images in a comparatively small location. The technology in use in the Digital Gallery was created expressly for the Photography Space. In addition to showing images from the exhibiting photographers, the Digital Gallery also screens short documentary films created to accompany the print exhibits.

MICROSOFT SURFACE TABLES Microsoft Surface is a 30-inch display in a table-like form that's easy for individuals or small groups to interact with in a way that feels familiar, just like in the real world. The two Microsoft Surface Tables allow visitors to experience their own creativity, using actual exhibit photographs and additional photographs from the featured artists. It's a camera-based vision system that lets users create digital content and move information between objects with their hands.

AUDIO TOUR Audio tours are available via QR codes on display throughout the exhibit. Guests are encouraged to use smartphones and headphones to access additional information about images and photographers. For those who have not brought smartphones, a few iPod Touch devices are available for checkout at the front desk.



COURTESY OF AECOM



AGE RECOMMENDATION • OVERVIEW

AGE RECOMMENDATION Water: OurThirstyWorld is recommended for all ages.

OVERVIEW The Annenberg Space for Photography presents an exhibit examining the precarious state of the world's fresh water. Coinciding with *National Geographic's* special issue "Water: OurThirstyWorld," this exhibit features the work of award-winning photographers looking at our most precious resource from environmental, social, political and cultural perspectives.

Specific themes presented in the exhibit follow six major features of *National Geographic's* "Water: OurThirstyWorld," issue. These themes include "Sacred Waters," looking at humankind's inspirational relationship with water and celebrating how precious this resource is to all life on the planet; "The Big Melt," examining the environmental challenges of Tibet's freshwater resource, on which two billion people depend; "Parting the Waters," showing how countries are working together to adapt to the drastic reduction in water levels in the Jordan river basin; "The Burden of Thirst," presenting issues facing African women and children who are responsible for delivering the freshwater needs for their families; "California's Pipe Dream," surveying California's vast water infrastructure, thirsty crops, rampant development and threats to the fragile Sacramento Delta; and "Silent Streams," looking at the challenges facing freshwater species and how scientists hope to save them.

The compelling prints were captured by some of *National Geographic's* finest photographers including Jonas Bendiksen, Edward Burtynsky, Lynn Johnson, Paolo Pellegrin, Joel Sartore and John Stanmeyer.

In addition to traditional prints, the Photography Space presents high-resolution digital programming which relates to the exhibit themes: in-depth interviews with *National Geographic* photographers and editors, a behind the scenes peek at what it takes to produce *National Geographic Magazine* and a program on NASA's recent moon mission in search of water.



© EDWARD BURTYNSKY



© PAOLO PELLEGRIN



THE CURRENT EXHIBIT : WATER: OUR THIRSTY WORLD

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE FEATURED ARTISTS

water OUR
THIRSTY
WORLD



JONAS BENDIKSEN (THE BIG MELT)

Jonas Bendiksen has received numerous awards, including a National Magazine Award for his story "Kibera," which was featured in the *Paris Review*. Other distinctions include a Freedom of Expression Foundation fellowship, second place in the 2004 Daily Life Stories category for World Press Photo, the 2003 Infinity Award from the International Center of Photography, and first prize in the Pictures of the Year International competition. His coverage on "Dharavi: Mumbai's Shadow City," was featured in the May 2007 issue of *National Geographic*.



EDWARD BURTYNSKY (CALIFORNIA'S PIPE DREAM)

Edward Burtynsky is known as one of the world's most respected photographers. His remarkable photographic depictions of global industrial landscapes are included in the collections of 15 major museums around the world, including the National Gallery of Canada, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York. "California's Pipe Dream" is his first assignment with *National Geographic*.



LYNN JOHNSON (THE BURDEN OF THIRST)

Lynn Johnson has traveled from Siberia to Zambia with her Leica cameras. Though she has photographed notables from Tiger Woods to the justices of the Supreme Court, her favorite assignments are emotionally demanding stories about ordinary people. She has received awards from World Press Photo and POYi, among others. Her work for *National Geographic* has covered everything from zoonotic diseases to illiterate women from India's Untouchable caste training to become village health workers.



PAOLO PELLEGRIN (PARTING THE WATER)

Paolo Pellegrin has won many awards, including eight World Press Photo awards and numerous Photographer of the Year awards, a Leica Medal of Excellence, an Olivier Rebbot Award, the Hansel-Meith Prize, and the Robert Capa Gold Medal Award. In 2006, he received the W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography. He lives in New York and Rome.





JOEL SARTORE (SILENT STREAMS)

A lifelong Nebraskan, Joel Sartore is a frequent contributor to *National Geographic*. He is co-founder of the Grassland Foundation and a founding member of the International League of Conservation Photographers. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including top honors in the category of Science/Natural History from POYi. His recent work for *National Geographic* includes stories on endangered species and amphibian loss.



JOHN STANMEYER (SACRED WATERS)

John Stanmeyer works regularly on assignment with *National Geographic*. He has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the Robert Capa Magazine Photographer of the Year; as well as World Press and Picture of the Year awards. His recent work for the magazine includes stories about food security and malaria.

VISUAL ARTS CONTENT STANDARDS FOR CALIFORNIA

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/vamain.asp>

1.0 ARTISTIC PERCEPTION

Students respond to works of art, objects in nature, events and the environment. They use the vocabulary of the visual arts to express their observations.

- Analyze the use of the elements of art and the principles of design as they relate to meaning in video, film or electronic media.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

Students analyze the role and development of the visual arts in past and present cultures throughout the world, noting human diversity as it relates to the visual arts and artists.

- Describe how photography plays a role in reflecting life.
- Examine a work of art created to make a social comment or protest social conditions.
- Identify contemporary artists worldwide who have achieved regional, national or international recognition and discuss ways in which their work reflects, plays a role in and influences present-day culture.

4.0 AESTHETIC VALUING

Students analyze, assess and derive meaning from works of art according to the elements of art, the principles of design and aesthetic qualities.

- Articulate how personal beliefs, cultural traditions and current social and political contexts influence the interpretation of the meaning or message in a work of art.

5.0 CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, APPLICATIONS

Students apply what is learned in the visual arts to other art forms and subject areas and to careers.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the effects of visual communication media (e.g., television, music videos, film, Internet) on all aspects of society.



NATIONAL CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

<http://www.ncss.org/standards/strands>



THEME 1 CULTURE

- By recognizing various cultural perspectives, people acquire the potential to foster more positive relations and interactions with diverse people within our own nation and other nations.
- Awareness and knowledge of other cultures is important in a connected society and an interdependent world.
- Cultural values and beliefs of societies influence people's analysis of challenges and their responses to these challenges.

THEME 2 TIME, CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

- Studying the past makes it possible for us to understand the human story across time.

THEME 3 PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

- There are changes in regional and global physical systems, such as seasons, climate, weather and the water cycle.
- There are social and economic effects of environmental changes and crises resulting from phenomena such as floods, storms and drought.

THEME 8 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

- Science and technology have had both positive and negative impacts upon individuals, societies and the environment.
- There is a need for laws and policies to govern scientific and technological applications.
- Science, technology and their consequences are unevenly available across the globe.
- The achievements in science and technology are increasing at a rapid pace and can have both planned and unanticipated consequences.
- The world is media saturated and technologically dependent. How media is created and received depends on cultural contexts.

THEME 9 GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

- The solutions to global issues may involve individual decisions and actions but also require national and international approaches (e.g., agreements, negotiations, policies or laws).
- The actions of people, communities and nations have both short- and long-term effects on the biosphere and its ability to sustain life.



SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

for online viewing of Exhibit Films and Print Galleries



VIDEO GALLERY

FEATURE FILM

• **Tibetan Plateau** - What climate change is occurring on the Tibetan plateau? What is the impact of the glaciers melting on the Tibetan plateau? Describe the geography of this area and the cultures that will be affected by climate change. Describe drought. Describe flooding. Explain how these phenomena are caused by both natural and human events.

• **Africa** - In Africa some people walk miles to gather water in buckets and containers. Why are the women singing in the singing wells in Kenya? Imagine your life without ready access to water. What do you know about how water comes to your house? Describe what you think happens, and then research it.

• United States

◦ **Southeastern states** - Fresh water habitats become polluted, and the many species that live in these environments are in danger of becoming extinct. Why is it important to protect these species? Does seeing photographs of endangered species aid in their protection? Why does Joel Sartore think people would want to save turtles instead of mussels? What else can be done to help save endangered species?

◦ **California** - The birth of Los Angeles involved a massive plumbing project. Water was captured and redirected, turning what was the desert into one of the largest cities in the world. Research and explain how engineers conquered nature and brought water to Los Angeles.

What are the positive and negative consequences of this massive effort?

• **Worldwide** - Many of the stories about water raise worrisome issues, but at the same time it's important to celebrate water and to look at how sacred water is to us. Describe how water is used in a sacred manner. Have you ever participated in a ritual or ceremony that involved water? If so, describe the event and your thoughts about it. What was the significance of the water in the ceremony?

VOICE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER FILMS

Review the following quotes from some of the featured photographers, then choose a film to watch. Explain your choice and your reaction to viewing the film.

• **Lynn Johnson** - <http://www.lynnjohnsonphoto.com/>

"The human condition and the way people relate to each other; that has been the focus for me since the moment I picked up a camera."

• **Joel Sartore** - <http://www.joelsartore.com/>

"I want to tell the story of these plants and animals that are so critically endangered that, if we don't do something, they will vanish from the face of the earth forever."

• **Edward Burtynsky** - <http://www.edwardburtynsky.com/>

"As a photographer, I focus on man's relationship with nature. How are we as a species transforming this planet?"

• **John Stanmeyer** - <http://stanmeyer.com/>

"I'm a social documentarian. I cover conflict social issues and social upheaval. I photograph the ugliness of humanity."



SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

EXHIBIT PRINT GALLERY

- The goal of the photojournalists in this exhibit is to raise awareness of our world through photography, to connect people with others and to get people to care about issues. Describe a photograph from the print gallery that causes an emotional response in you. What are your thoughts? What action(s) might you take after having seen the films and images in this exhibit?
- Describe a photograph that you think is beautiful that is actually showing something very sad about water.
- Find two photographs that seem completely opposite in theme and intent. Describe your choices.
- Can you find any photographs that seem to be altered or manipulated in some way? Does the photographer use an editing technique when publishing the photo that helps dramatize the theme or intent of the photograph?
- Describe three photographs you would take, in your house or community, that demonstrate the need, waste and celebration of water.

