

LE PAYSAGE ABSTRAIT: EDWARD BURTYNSKY BRINGS MAJOR ABSTRACT WORKS TO ARSENAL CONTEMPORARY ART MONTREAL INVITING VIEWERS TO SEE THE WORLD IN BEAUTIFUL BUT CHALLENGING WAYS

[\*Presale tickets: -20% Off before July 31<sup>st</sup>!\*](#)

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Montreal, June 6, 2023 — On September 7, 2023 world-renowned Canadian photographer **Edward Burtynsky** will open his new exhibition, ***Le paysage abstrait***, in collaboration with **Arsenal Contemporary Art Montreal**. Curated by **Marc Mayer**, former Director of the National Gallery of Canada and Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the exhibition will feature 30 of Burtynsky's large-format photographs as well as three high-resolution murals, unique augmented reality (AR) experiences, and a brand new video piece, all of which will echo Burtynsky's life-long inspirations from the Abstract Expressionism movement.

**Le paysage abstrait** will be anchored by a special presentation of Burtynsky's latest multimedia project, **In the Wake of Progress**, which saw its public world premiere during the Luminato Festival Toronto in Yonge-Dundas Square in June 2022. This 22-minute experience, co-produced by Canadian music legend Bob Ezrin (Pink Floyd, Peter Gabriel, Lou Reed), will envelop audiences upon entering the exhibition. *In the Wake of Progress* combines the most powerful photographs and film footage of Burtynsky's career, offering visitors a deeper survey of his 40-year oeuvre. The piece is choreographed to a breathtaking award-winning original score composed by Phil Strong with vocals by Cree Métis artist iskwē.

*"In his work, Burtynsky combines the modern world's twin weaknesses, beauty and material accumulation, into a series of ravishing pictures that explore both ideas at once. Abstraction seeks the purification of art by defying meaning to distill pure beauty. Similarly, industrial agriculture and resource extraction defy nature, our only habitat, to feed our material cravings. With his often jarringly strange pictures, drawn from the entire corpus, Burtynsky suggests that our fate depends on understanding and taming both of these obsessions,"* says Curator Marc Mayer.

This new exhibition follows on the trajectory of Burtynsky's career ethos — the artist having borne witness to the impact of human industry on the natural landscape on a global scale for over four decades — but serves to slow visitors down with the contemplative beauty of some of his most painterly works and the exceptional multi-sensory experience that is *In the Wake of Progress*. Each of the exhibition's elements combine to tell the story of human impact on the Earth, urging us to rethink our legacy and seek a more sustainable future.

*"I want this exhibition to inspire people, to give visitors a wide look at our world and fuel them with the desire to take action for a sustainable future. I remain hopeful that if each of us not only makes our own positive changes, but also demands them from corporations and governments alike, we can leave behind a livable planet for current and future generations,"* says Edward Burtynsky.

**Le paysage abstrait** experience will end on a note of hope, with visitors exiting through a unique space designed to highlight both local and national organizations who are making positive contributions to the areas of sustainability, biodiversity loss, conservation and climate change with various activations and calls-to-action. Visitors will also be able to leave behind a contribution to the exhibition by leaving a message of their own hope for a sustainable future.

In addition to the fulsome exhibition experience **Le paysage abstrait** will provide at Arsenal, collectors of Burtynsky's work and visitors alike will also be able to view a selection of artworks at **Blouin Division** gallery (upstairs at Arsenal Contemporary Art), all of which will be available for purchase.

***Le paysage abstrait*** will be on view Tuesdays through Sundays at Arsenal Contemporary Art Montreal beginning September 7 and running until October 1, 2023.

**Tickets available now:**

[https://bit.ly/EdwardBurtynsky\\_EN](https://bit.ly/EdwardBurtynsky_EN)

**Opening hours:**

- Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00am - 9:00pm (last entry 8:00pm)
- Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm (last entry 4:00pm)

**Ticket prices:**

- General admission: 26\$ (plus service fees)
- Student/Senior: 17\$ (plus service fees)
- Tickets free 12 years and under (maximum of 3 children per adult)

***Le paysage abstrait*** is presented by **Scotiabank** in partnership with **TELUS**, with the generous support of **Power Corporation of Canada**. Special thanks also goes to **Hatch** for their continued support, to **Labatt Breweries of Canada** and **McCain Foods**. Additional thanks to **Toronto Image Works** for the printing and framing of all the prints in this show.

This presentation is bullfrog-powered with 100% green electricity. This means that Bullfrog Power's generators put 100% green electricity onto the grid to match the amount of conventional electricity used to run the exhibition at Arsenal Contemporary Art Montreal, displacing energy from polluting sources. Across Canada, Bullfrog's green electricity comes from a blend of wind, solar and low-impact hydro power sourced from new Canadian renewable energy facilities. For more information on Bullfrog's green energy, visit [www.bullfrogpower.com](http://www.bullfrogpower.com)

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**About Edward Burtynsky:**

Edward Burtynsky is regarded as one of the world's most accomplished contemporary photographers. His remarkable photographic depictions of global industrial landscapes represent over 40 years of his dedication to bearing witness to the impact of humans on the planet. Burtynsky's photographs are included in the collections of over 80 major museums around the world. Major (touring) exhibitions include: *Anthropocene* (2018); *Water* (2013) organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art & Contemporary Art Center, Louisiana; *Oil* (2009) at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.; *China* (2005 five-year tour); and *Manufactured Landscapes* (2003) at the National Gallery of Canada. Burtynsky's distinctions include the inaugural TED Prize in 2005, which he shared with Bono and Robert Fischell; in 2006 he was awarded the title of Officer of the Order of Canada; the Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts; the Outreach Award at the Rencontres d'Arles; the Roloff Beny Book award; and the 2018 Photo London Master

of Photography Award. In 2019 he was the recipient of the Arts & Letters Award at the Canadian Association of New York's annual Maple Leaf Ball and the 2019 Lucie Award for Achievement in Documentary Photography. In 2020 he was awarded a Royal Photographic Society Honorary Fellowship and in 2022 was honoured with the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award by the World Photography Organization. In 2022, he was inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame and was named the 2022 recipient for the annual Pollution Probe Award. Most recently he received the 2023 PHotoESPAÑA Award for Professional Career and was awarded with the 25th edition of the Pino Pascali Prize. Burtynsky was also a key production figure in the award-winning documentary trilogy *Manufactured Landscapes* (dir. Jennifer Baichwal, 2006), *Watermark* (dir. Baichwal and Burtynsky, 2013), and *ANTHROPOCENE: The Human Epoch* (dir. Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier, and Burtynsky, 2018). All three films continue to play in festivals around the world. Burtynsky currently holds eight honorary doctorate degrees.

### **About Arsenal Contemporary Art:**

Arsenal Contemporary Art is a private contemporary art and cultural initiative founded by patrons Pierre and Anne-Marie Trahan. It is devoted to the support, promotion and development of Canadian contemporary art through diverse endeavors, including the showcase of Canadian contemporary artists, alongside international artists, in exhibitions that are curated in-house and by invited international curators.

Opened in 2011 in Montréal, Arsenal Contemporary Art has since expanded to include locations in Toronto (2013) and New York (2017). Although some exhibitions travel from one location to another, the programming of each location is tailored to its respective community, space and audience.

### **For more information:**

[www.arsenalcontemporary.com](http://www.arsenalcontemporary.com)

[www.instagram.com/arsenalcontemporary](https://www.instagram.com/arsenalcontemporary)

[www.facebook.com/arsenalcontemporary](https://www.facebook.com/arsenalcontemporary)

### **Credits:**

Thjorsá River #1, Iceland, 2012 (detail)

© Edward Burtynsky, courtesy Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto.

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