

November 29, 2013

**World's Best Wildlife Images of 2013 at the Royal BC Museum  
BC Photographers Earn Top Honours in a Field of 43,000 International Entries**

**Victoria, BC** – Three BC photographers are featured as winners of this year's *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* competition return to the Royal BC Museum on Friday, Nov. 29 from the Natural History Museum, London and BBC Worldwide.

The exhibition features 100 winning images, in huge, backlit displays, selected from a field of just under 43,000 international entries. It is exceptional for three photographers in British Columbia to receive this level of international recognition.

**Connor Stefanison**, a biology student currently studying at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, is the winner of the Eric Hosking Portfolio award for his series of six nature photographs showing animals engaged in hunting, rest or foraging activities in their natural habitat.

**Garth Lenz** of Victoria is a winner in the World in Our Hands category for his dramatic aerial image "Oil spoils," which shows the scale and size of the Alberta tar sands.

**Adam Gibbs** of New Westminster was specially commended in the Wildscapes category for "The enchantment," his photograph of an alpine lake bathed in shadow and autumn colours.

"We are delighted to present the world's hundred best natural history photographs. This year's winners offer a deeply aesthetic window into our natural world. I am thrilled that four Canadians are amongst the winners and the photo journalism in the show connects superbly with our own mission to better understand our world, nature and the threats it faces," said Prof. Jack Lohman, Royal BC Museum CEO.

The annual competition, organized by the Natural History Museum and co-owned with BBC Worldwide, receives entries from professionals, gifted amateurs and young photographers alike. The international judging panel includes some of the world's most respected nature photographers and wildlife experts.

The exhibition features 100 photographs from 96 countries in 18 categories, including Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year, Gerald Durrell Award for Endangered Wildlife, World in Our Hands and Wildlife Photojournalist of the Year. Each photographic situation is described by the photographer, along with technical details including camera, lens, aperture and exposure.

This year's photos in *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* take viewers on a journey around the world with thought provoking images from Kenya, the Philippines, Brazil, and Thailand. They highlight activities in one part of the world that can affect lives and landscapes elsewhere. Colourful images of the illegal ivory trade in Manila are shown alongside darker photographs of undercover rangers who police elephant tusk poaching in Kenya. BC and the Pacific Northwest receive prominent cameos in images that feature landscapes in all seasons and intimate close ups of the animals that live within them.

Activities for younger visitors during the run of the exhibition include a Young Photographers Contest (February 8 – March 25); a Spring Break Nature Photography-Inspired Day Camp (March 11-13, March 18-20) and Wonder Sunday: Sounds of Nature (March 30).

Programs for adults include Robert Bateman on Paying Attention to our Place Through Art and Photography (January 15) and a Photography Day Camp for Grown-Ups (March 15).

The *2013 Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition closes April 6, 2014.

### **About the Royal BC Museum**

As the provincial museum and archives, the Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. Through collections, research, presentations and partnerships, the museum and archives tell the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Its two-hectare cultural precinct in Victoria includes a number of historically significant buildings and First Nations sites.

— 30 —

#### **Media contact:**

Sandra Hudson

250-216-1380

[sandra@goodrelations.ca](mailto:sandra@goodrelations.ca)

#### **Or**

Royal BC Museum Media Inquiries

250-387-3207

[news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)